United Nations S/PV.5277

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5277th meeting

Thursday, 13 October 2005, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mrs. Patterson

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55159 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at recent reports of an upsurge of violence in Darfur by all sides and insists that all parties strictly abide by the demands and commitments made in the 8 April 2004 N'Djamena ceasefire agreement, the resolutions of the Council and the Abuja Protocols. The Council strongly condemns the 8 October attack reportedly by the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army on African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) personnel in Darfur, which killed four Nigerian peacekeepers and two civilian contractors and wounded three others near Menawasha, and the 9 October attack reportedly by the Justice and Equality Movement in Tine in North Darfur, which resulted in the ambush and detention of approximately 35 AMIS personnel. The Council extends its deepest condolences to the families of those killed.

"The Security Council also condemns the 25 September attack in Modaina, Chad, by armed groups coming from the Sudan, which killed 75 people, the majority of them civilians. The Council joins with the African Union in expressing particular outrage at the 19 September attack by Darfur rebels against the town of Sheiara; the attack by Janjaweed militias on the camp for displaced persons at Aro Sharow on 28 September, during which 29 people were killed and many more wounded; and the attack on the village of Tawilla by Sudanese Government forces on 29 September.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the humanitarian impact that these developments cause and at the restrictions imposed on humanitarian operations in Darfur. The Council insists that restrictions end immediately and strongly urges all parties to ensure unhindered humanitarian access in Darfur.

"The Security Council also expresses its concern that the Secretary-General's report of 19 September stated there had been 'no visible effort by the Government [of Sudan] to disarm the militia or hold them to account in accordance with past agreements and Security Council resolutions. The SLM/A [Sudan Liberation Movement/Army] and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) are also failing to abide by the commitments made under past agreements and are doing far too little to control their men under arms'. The Council recalls the obligation undertaken by the Government of the Sudan to disarm and control militias. It demands the SLM/A, the JEM and the Government of the Sudan to immediately cease violence, comply with the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement, end impediments to the peace process and cooperate fully with the African Union Mission. The Council again emphasizes the need to bring to justice those who perpetrate violence.

"The Security Council recalls the provisions of resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan. It urges the African Union to share the results of its investigations into recent attacks with the Council for possible referral to the Sudan Sanctions Committee in order to assist in the implementation of the provisions of the Council's relevant resolutions.

"The Security Council expresses its unequivocal support for the African Union Mission, and recalls that the Sudanese Government and Darfur rebel movements have to take the necessary steps to facilitate the deployment and effectiveness of AMIS.

"The Security Council remains firmly committed to the cause of peace in all of the Sudan, including through the Abuja talks and through full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It encourages the Government of National Unity and the Darfur rebels to engage in the search for a solution to the Darfur conflict. It urges all parties to make rapid

progress at the Abuja talks to conclude a peace agreement without further delay."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2005/48.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5278

Security Council

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Thursday, 13 October 2005, 3.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mrs. Patterson

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

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05-55255 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I understand that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Adeniji (Nigeria) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Said Djinnit, Commissioner of the African Union Commission.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Djinnit to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, and to Mr. António Monteiro, High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Schori to take a seat at the Council table.

I invite Mr. Monteiro to take a seat at the Council table.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: I should like to acknowledge the presence at this meeting of His Excellency Mr. Omar Bashir Manis, the current Chairman of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and of Mr. Mojanku Gumbi and Mr. Silumko Sokupa, representing the African Union Mediator.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2005/639, containing the text of a letter dated 6 October 2005 from the representative of Nigeria addressed to the President of the Security Council.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji; the Commissioner of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Said Djinnit; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Pierre Schori; and the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. António Monteiro.

I now give the floor to Mr. Adeniji.

Mr. Adeniji (Nigeria): I would like first of all to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. I would also like to thank you and the other members of the Council for having given me this opportunity to address you on the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. This is an issue which has repeatedly appeared on the agenda of the Council in the past two years, and one that has been a source of great preoccupation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU). It is a subject with regard to which we have witnessed, alternately, periods of great expectation and periods of great anxiety — anxiety for

Africa in general, but particularly for the West African region, whose States, because of their proximity to Côte d'Ivoire and their strong economic and cultural links, are very vulnerable to the effects of developments in that country.

Today, as over the past few weeks, Côte d'Ivoire is witnessing one of the cyclical periods of anxiety. But this time it is potentially explosive, in particular because of the impossibility of meeting the deadline for the transition phases envisaged in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. That situation and the need for anticipatory actions to avert a catastrophe that could set back the entire West African region by several years, if not decades, account for the flurry of activities — one phase of which is culminating in the appearance before the Council today of an AU delegation that I have the privilege to lead.

This Council is well aware of the commendable efforts and the significant resources that the South African President, acting on the authority of the African Union, has devoted to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire in the past nine months or so. Both ECOWAS and the African Union have paid well-deserved tributes to President Thabo Mbeki. Obviously, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis, Accra and Pretoria agreements during the mediation period of the South African President.

Notwithstanding the progress, when it started to become clear that the transition period — which was expected to end with the holding of elections on 30 October 2005 — could not be completed, it became urgently necessary to consider how to manage the post-30-October arrangements. Thus, at the initiative of President Obasanjo, Chairman of the African Union, a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council at the level of heads of State or Government was convened in New York at the margins of the General Assembly on 14 September 2005.

During the course of its deliberations, the Peace and Security Council received a report from President Thabo Mbeki, the Mediator, who also happened to be the Chairman of the Council for that month. After that very clear and lengthy exposé, the Peace and Security Council expressed concern that, notwithstanding the tireless efforts of the AU Mediator, the Ivorian parties had not demonstrated the necessary political will for the full implementation of the agreements reached on the outstanding issues, particularly the dismantling and disarmament of the militias, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes and the creation of conditions for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections. The Peace and Security Council underlined the need to review the situation in Côte d'Ivoire before 30 October 2005, and requested ECOWAS to convene urgently at the summit level to assess the situation and report thereon at a meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council to be convened urgently at the summit level to consider the matter and decide accordingly.

Thus, in view of the urgency of the issue, ECOWAS convened an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on 30 September 2005, in Abuja, to consider the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the developments that would have to be put in place post-30 October. The ECOWAS Summit made far-reaching recommendations that were submitted to a meeting of the Peace and Security Council, which itself was held within a week of the Abuja Summit, on 6 October 2005.

The recommendations of ECOWAS were, by and large, the basis for the adoption of its own decision by the Peace and Security Council at the 6 October meeting, but I will not elaborate on those recommendations. However, the result of the summit of the AU Peace and Security Council is, of course, what the AU delegation has brought to submit formally to the Council this afternoon, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Peace and Security Council's communiqué that reads "Decides to submit this decision to the United Nations Security Council to obtain its support ..." (*S/2005/639, Annex*).

That decision, and a brief synthesis of its main points, I shall leave to the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Djinnit, to present to you very succinctly. I should like, however, to call attention to one important aspect of the decision that concerns the request of the AU Peace and Security Council to the United Nations Security Council — a request which is not being made for the first time, I daresay — to consider a substantial increase in the strength of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI). That request is particularly germane in a period which is fast approaching when it is envisaged and hoped that we will witness increased activities in Côte d'Ivoire, linked to the disbanding and disarmament of the militias and, not least, the conduct of free, fair,

transparent and credible presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

The current authorized troop level of ONUCI is, I believe, just over 7,000. Now, please believe me, speaking as a former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, that this is far too low a number for the level required if a credible disarmament in Côte d'Ivoire is desired. Thus, the AU expects and hopes that this United Nations Security Council's resolution on the AU Peace and Security Council's report, which Mr. Djinnit will succinctly, but in some detail, present to you, will be adopted quickly so that between now and the end of October we can put all the structures into place that will be absolutely essential for the post-30 October governance of the country. We hope that this same resolution will include a firm commitment on the increase of ONUCI.

In conclusion, it is needless to say that the clock is ticking towards the 30 October date and there are many steps to be taken on the ground in Côte d'Ivoire, not only to enable us who are present to have all the parties in Côte d'Ivoire accept the decision of the Peace and Security Council — a decision which will hopefully be endorsed by the United Nations Security Council — but also to be able to make a firm commitment for the decision's implementation, as that is really a key issue in Côte d'Ivoire. We are not short of agreements — we have had a series of agreements on the Côte d'Ivoire situation, to which all the main parties have subscribed — but when it comes to the implementation stage, this is another story. Nevertheless, we hope that this time, with the collaboration of all concerned, with the great involvement of ECOWAS and the AU and, of course, the United Nations, we are optimistic that the story will be different.

What is important at this stage is that the Security Council demonstrate the sense of urgency that has characterized the speed with which, at the African level, ECOWAS and the AU Peace and Security Council — even at the level of heads of State or Government — have been able to get together to do their own part at this preliminary stage in the resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

The President: I now give the floor to the Commissioner of the African Union Commission, Mr. Said Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit: Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your country's assumption of the Security Council presidency for the month of October and to further convey the appreciation of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU) for providing this opportunity for the Commission to brief the Security Council on the conclusions of the 40th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on Côte d'Ivoire.

The fact that we are meeting together here today, following the meeting of the Peace and Security Council, bears eloquent testimony to our common resolve to promote and enhance coordination and cooperation between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations.

As all Security Council members are aware, and as recalled by Mr. Adeniji, the initiative to convene an urgent meeting in New York of the Peace and Security Council on 14 September at the head of State and Government level, at the initiative of Nigerian President Obasanjo, was taken against the background of the slow progress in the implementation of agreements and the resulting threat to the peace process, particularly in view of the fact that the holding of elections on 30 October 2005 was no longer feasible.

At that meeting, the Peace and Security Council decided that the Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should convene urgently to assess the situation with respect to the problems of the implementation of the outstanding agreements and report to a meeting of the Peace and Security Council, to be convened urgently at the summit level, with the participation of ECOWAS leaders, to consider the matter and decide accordingly.

The ECOWAS Summit met on 30 September and formulated a set of recommendations that were considered by the Peace and Security Council at its meeting held on 6 October at the level of heads of State or Government, with the participation of ECOWAS leaders and the United Nations, among others.

Based on the ECOWAS recommendations and taking into account the efforts made by ECOWAS leaders, the AU Mediation and the United Nations on the one hand, and the concerns expressed by all the Ivorian parties on the other, the Peace and Security Council endeavoured to provide an African perspective

to the efforts aimed at addressing the challenges confronting the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. After its deliberations, the Peace and Security Council agreed on the following.

Regarding the period after 30 October 2005, the Peace and Security Council decided that the arrangements agreed upon in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement shall continue from 31 October 2005 for a period not exceeding 12 months and that, first, President Gbagbo shall remain Head of State during the aforementioned period. Secondly, it agreed that a new Prime Minister acceptable to all the Ivorian parties signatories to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement shall be appointed; the Government which he will lead shall be composed of personalities proposed by the Ivorian parties signatories to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Thirdly, it agreed that the Ivorian parties shall be invited, as soon as possible, to a forum for national dialogue in Yamoussoukro; that meeting, which shall be open to civil society, including the traditional leaders and the private sector, shall be co-chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Regarding the international community's role in and support for the peace process, the Peace and Security Council decided, first, to reaffirm President Mbeki in his role as AU Mediator. Secondly, it decided on the establishment of an international working group at ministerial level to be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria in his capacity as Chair of the AU. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS in Côte d'Ivoire and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Côte d'Ivoire shall serve as secretariat, which shall be coordinated by the United Nations. Thirdly, it decided that the day-to-day mediation shall be undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the High Representative of the Secretary-General for elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the Special Envoy of South Africa, the Special Representative of the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in Côte d'Ivoire. The mediation group shall be chaired by the Special Envoy of South Africa, as the representative of the AU Mediator.

Regarding the specific role of the United Nations, the Peace and Security Council affirmed its support for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) and requested the Security Council to provide ONUCI with all necessary means to enable it effectively discharge its mandate, and to further consider authorizing a substantial increase of its strength. It reaffirmed its support for individual measures provided for in paragraphs 9 and 11 of Security Council resolution 1572 (2004) of 15 November 2004 and subsequent resolutions relevant to the commitments made by the Ivorian parties.

Finally, the Peace and Security Council decided to dispatch a high-level delegation to Côte d'Ivoire comprising President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairman of the AU, and President Thabo Mbeki, AU Mediator, to meet with President Gbagbo and other Ivorian parties with respect to the implementation of its decision.

At this crucial juncture in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, we cannot ignore the significant gains achieved so far. Yet neither should we underestimate the difficulties ahead, as we are quite familiar with the fact that the non-implementation of agreements had become a perennial state of play in Côte d'Ivoire. In adopting its decision on 6 October 2005, the Peace and Security Council aimed at injecting new impetus into the peace process through greater determination and involvement by the international community and greater support for and pressure on the Ivorian parties in the implementation of their commitments and obligations.

Before concluding, I should like to share with members of the Security Council the following observations.

First, the Ivorian parties and the international community need to take full advantage of the period not exceeding 12 months to address all outstanding issues, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the disarmament and dismantling of militias and the creation of conditions for the organization of free, fair and transparent elections. This requires the adoption as soon as possible of a tight calendar of implementation.

Secondly, members of the international community need to work hand in hand, and the Security Council needs to convey a strong signal to the Ivorian parties concerning the determination and cohesion of the international community.

Thirdly, there is a need to strengthen the role and presence of the United Nations, both in terms of providing UNOCI with all the necessary means to enable it discharge its mandate effectively and in terms of strengthening the authority of the High Representative for elections in Côte d'Ivoire in order to enable him to organize credible elections.

Fourthly, the parties need to comply strictly with their commitments and obligations, and the international community needs to show greater determination to exert the necessary pressure and sanctions against defaulting parties.

In conclusion, I would like to invite the members of the Security Council to support the decision of the 40th meeting of the Peace and Security Council and to take all other necessary measures aimed at further advancing the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and thus contribute to the restoration of peace in that country, a peace which is anxiously awaited not only by the people of Côte d'Ivoire but by the region and the continent as a whole.

The President: I thank Mr. Said Djinnit for his briefing and for the kind words he addressed to the presidency.

I now give the floor to Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Schori: In formulating a new way forward for the peace process, the Addis Ababa summit, which was preceded by the Abuja summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), has given hope to the people of Côte d'Ivoire. It has also helped to dispel some of the uncertainty about what would happen after 30 October. However, the Ivorian leaders are yet to embrace the new path to peace and to bury their deep-rooted mutual distrust and suspicion. At the same time, several major challenges stand in the way of sustainable peace and security. Let me offer a few brief observations from the field, so to speak.

In the whole of Côte d'Ivoire there is too much anxiety and fear in the air and too many Kalashnikovs in the streets. Rampant insecurity seems to be the order of the day. This results from continued violations of human rights; threats to foreigners, especially to ECOWAS citizens; intimidation of political opponents; and repeated obstruction of the impartial forces' freedom of movement. The stalemate in the processes of dismantling the militias, of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and of the preparations for elections, as well as the aggressive media environment, are other reasons for the insecure situation.

The latest human rights report of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), covering the period May to July 2005, which was released five days ago in Abidjan, makes gruesome reading. The report depicts in detail numerous human rights violations committed with increasing frequency by elements of the Government-controlled defence and security forces, military elements of the Forces nouvelles, armed and unarmed militia associated with either side of the Ivorian conflict, and criminals. The lack of rule of law has taken root.

The perpetrators of those violations have thus far enjoyed near-total impunity for the gross human rights violations that they inflict upon a defenceless population. That makes it difficult for ONUCI human rights and police officers to identify the individual perpetrators of the serious human rights violations that they discover daily in the course of their work. Human rights offenders apprehended by the impartial forces in the zone of confidence are, as a rule, released without further action by the authorities.

Serious violations of the fundamental human rights of Ivorian citizens are both a cause and a consequence of the political and military crisis in Côte d'Ivoire since September 2002. Sustained efforts by the international community to achieve lasting peace and promote national reconciliation will prove incomplete unless decisive action is taken to end the culture of impunity for serious human rights violations.

In that regard, I would like to emphasize the call by the Secretary-General to the Security Council to urgently consider the report of the International Commission of Inquiry into allegations of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in Côte d'Ivoire. The report covers the period from 19 September 2002 to 16 October 2004, and was transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General on 23 December 2004.

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General before the Council (S/2005/604), efforts by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to restore and maintain a secure and stable environment in the country have been severely hindered by the

ent obstruction of the impartial forces' freedom ovement and operation. Since the incidents in ma and Agboville in July, more than 60 cases of iction to UNOCI's freedom of movement have egistered. The majority of them have occurred in Government-controlled southern part of the ry. As a result, UNOCI is developing a more ive strategy aimed at preventing and curbing cases of obstruction, which includes steps taken highest political and military levels and nation- public information campaigns to better promote le and mandate of the mission in Côte d'Ivoire.

The proliferation of militia groups in various of the country has also seriously hampered the n's efforts to enhance security, especially in of the close association of those groups with al forces. A few first steps have been taken to ntle and disarm the militias. Unfortunately, the ss lacks the necessary transparency and ility.

Preparations for the disarmament and bilization of combatants have progressed cantly. The construction and rehabilitation of ament, demobilization and reintegration sites een completed in 70 per cent of areas controlled e Forces nouvelles, in the north, and in 95 nt of Government-controlled areas. However, the encement of the process is still being held e by the demand of the Forces nouvelles that the on of identification should first be adequately ed. In an effort to break that stalemate, UNOCI oposed a step-by-step approach starting with the nionment of combatants in the villages of Bouna Bondoukou, on opposing sides of the zone of fence, as a prelude to the dismantling and ing of the militias. All outstanding political , including identification, would be addressed in el.

Mr. Monteiro will report to the Council on the ations for the elections. Progress in those ations will also depend upon the creation of ate political and security conditions to allow for fered humanitarian access, freedom of movement mpaigning throughout the country.

n considering the report of the summit meeting e African Union just presented to the Security il, Council members may wish to pay urgent on to the following points, in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa decisions. In that connection, the following steps could be considered.

First, the conclusions of the African Union Summit should be endorsed, so as to send a strong message about the need to preserve and reinforce the international community's unity of purpose and action.

Secondly, the urgent convening of the meeting of the international working group aimed at defining a new timetable, with key benchmarks, for the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Pretoria Agreement should be encouraged. That could be linked to automatic imposition of targeted sanctions.

Thirdly, in order not to delay the implementation process, the Prime Minister and his, or her, Government should be in place as soon as possible.

Fourthly, noting that the mandate of the National Assembly ends in December 2005, timely recommendations should be made on the role of the legislature thereafter.

Fifthly, Presidents Obasanjo and Mbeki should be supported in their forthcoming visit to Côte d'Ivoire, in order to secure the commitment of all Ivorian leaders to implementing the Addis Ababa decision.

Finally, there is a need to clarify the role of the United Nations, given the critical and concrete tasks it is expected to perform in support of the implementation of key aspects of the peace process. With the current mistrust among Ivorian leaders, I personally also believe that UNOCI's impartiality can significantly help shape and implement a proactive and forward-looking agenda for the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.

In closing, I would like to say that I could hardly have failed to come here today, given that a couple of days ago thousands of people accompanied me on the way to the airport. It was young patriots who accompanied me; it was overjoyed Ivorians celebrating their country's successful qualification for soccer's World Cup matches, to be held in Germany next year. They showed tremendous unity, pride and hope in their country. I think that also gives us hope. At the same time, we are now seeing unique unity in the international community as regards Côte d'Ivoire. Let us therefore join those two "spirits" of unity, in Côte d'Ivoire and here, and help the people of Côte d'Ivoire move forward.

The President: I thank Ambassador Schori for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. António Monteiro, High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Monteiro: I would like to congratulate you and your country, Mr. President, on your assumption of your difficult functions for this month. I wish you every success in your role.

As the Council is aware, the mandate of the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire envisaged the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential elections on 30 October, as a solution to the crisis in the country. But my first observation during my exploratory mission to the country, from 8 to 18 August, was that there was a total absence of any real progress in the implementation of the agreements reached. Inevitable delays in the implementation of the electoral timetable cast reasonable doubts on the possibility of holding a credible presidential ballot on 30 October, given the sequence of events of which the Council is aware.

But during that exploratory mission, my very first task was to try to remove the objections raised by the opposition concerning the presidential decisions of 15 July regarding the new Independent Electoral Commission and the questions of identification and naturalization. After I asked President Thabo Mbeki, the African Union's Mediator, to intervene with President Gbagbo, new presidential decrees were issued on 29 August confirming the key role of the Commission in conducting the electoral process and clarifying questions regarding nationality, identification and naturalization — issues that constitute a fundamental aspect of the Ivorian crisis. On the same day, the Secretary General of the Forces nouvelles appointed their six representatives to the new Independent Electoral Commission, thereby ending the opposition's refusal to participate that had persisted up until then.

My second task was to ask for the completion of nominations for members to the new Commission to assist with the Constitutional Council.

By giving all Ivorian political actors the assurance of impartiality and objectivity — the fundamental basis for the creation of the post of High Representative as an exceptional measure — I have always underlined to my interlocutors that it was necessary for them to commit truthfully to the electoral process. Elections must be conducted by the Ivorians themselves, respecting the laws of the country, adjusted to the agreements already signed.

After the composition of the independent electoral commission was finalized, additional time was needed to allow for the application of all legal formalities and to resolve an issue of multiple nominations by one party. On 29 September, the President of the Republic signed a decree establishing the new Independent Electoral Commission, which will also fill a gap, serving as the basis for regular dialogue among all political forces.

Today, I have just received a letter from the Minister for Territorial Administration, informing me that next Monday, there will be an official swearing-in ceremony for the members of the Independent Electoral Commission and that the first meeting, which will be devoted to the election of its bureau, is to be held on 19 October.

It is my intention to participate actively in the work of the Independent Electoral Commission by providing advice and guidance to prevent and resolve any difficulty that might jeopardize the holding of open, free, fair and transparent elections. It is also my proposal to signal any violations.

I also plan to work closely with the Constitutional Council, whose powers include verification of the legitimacy of candidates for the presidential and legislative elections, the resolution of disputes relating to the election of the President of the Republic and the members of the National Assembly, and the announcement of the final results of the presidential elections.

In preparing for the elections, I have already requested UNOCI, together with my Office, to establish contacts with the Institut National de Statistiques, the Office Nationale d'Identification and the Commission Nationale de Supervision de l'Identification (CNSI). All of these are agencies that are working to prepare the elections. All the work already undertaken will be discussed later with the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Division of UNOCI is already deploying the expected 120 United Nations Volunteers, who will serve as electoral advisers throughout Côte

d'Ivoire. They are establishing initial contacts with local authorities.

Thus, the path is open for the organization of elections. The main objective is now for the new Independent Electoral Commission to define a road map with precise benchmarks that must be adhered to in good faith. This would make it easier to identify possible deadlocks or any attempt to manipulate the process.

From all the tasks of the Commission, the most delicate will be the identification question and the criteria for voter eligibility. It will be necessary to make the legislation as simple and as clear as possible in order to allow to all those participating in the preparation of the register of voters to act in an impartial, standard and objective manner.

I have been exploring with political leaders the idea that the voters' cards to be used in these elections, which must have a photograph and a fingerprint, could serve as the basic legal document to facilitate the process of obtaining additional identity papers and the new identification card.

The electoral work can proceed effectively only in an environment with adequate security throughout the country. Freedom of movement and freedom of thought are indispensable to guarantee truly democratic elections accepted by all. This is the responsibility of the armed forces that control the two parts of the divided country and the effective monitoring of the impartial forces of UNOCI and Operation Licorne. Naturally, the ideal is to complete, as Mr. Schori just underlined, the entire process of disarmament and dismantling of the militias.

To conclude, one point: the proposal made by the African Union to the Security Council for a period not exceeding 12 months is largely sufficient for the preparing and holding free and fair elections.

The President: I thank Mr. Monteiro for his briefing and the kind words he addressed to me.

I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting to consider the Secretary-General's sixth progress report on developments in Côte d'Ivoire and on the United Nations Operations there, pursuant to Council resolution 1603 (2005) of 3 June 2005 (S/2005/604). I would like to thank members of the Council for their constant interest in Côte d'Ivoire, which is evident from the public meetings devoted to the situation in my country.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Oluyemi Adenidji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nigeria, and Mr. Said Djinnit, Commissioner of the African Union Commission, for having travelled here specially to brief the Security Council on developments in the African Union Mediation and, in particular, to report on the 40th meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held at Addis Ababa on 6 October.

I would like to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, for his personal involvement, and to the Mediator of the African Union, Mr. Mbeki, for his tireless efforts as they help us to look for a peaceful solution to the crisis that has lasted too long.

I would like to welcome here Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. António Monteiro, High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, for their invaluable contribution to bringing peace and stability back to Côte d'Ivoire.

While we welcome the excellent sixth progress report, which covers all of the conditions that must be met if peace and stability are to return to my country, I would, nevertheless, like to offer a few comments, which in no way call into question the substance of that report.

The general tone of the report would suggest that it does not take sufficiently into account the fact that Côte d'Ivoire has been at war for three years with consequences that we all know. The northern and western half of the country is occupied. There are more small arms and light weapons in circulation and there is a virtual absence of the State in the occupied area. People are simply frustrated because the crisis has bogged down and because they are suffering on account of this. The rebels keep delaying laying down their arms and this, despite all the sacrifices made by the President in the name of the people of Côte d'Ivoire.

My delegation would reserve the right to convey to the Secretary-General in due course the observations

of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on his sixth report. Here, I would simply like to reiterate my Government's commitment to ensure safety for goods and persons and freedom of movement for the impartial forces. As members know, major security measures were taken inter alia after the deadly attacks in Guitrozon and Petit Duékoué, in the western part of the country, and in Anyama and Agoville, north of Abijan.

Turning to the decisions taken by the 40th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, those decisions support the Government's constant position reflected in the Ivorian constitution. As the presidential election could not be held, primarily because the rebels are still in arms and the country is still divided, the President of the Republic will remain in office until the new president is sworn in.

The arrangements for government proposed by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union will, we are sure, make it possible for the peace process to continue. Today, it is blocked primarily with respect to the process of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR).

My delegation strongly hopes that the decisions of the African Union will be endorsed by the Security Council. Discussions on what some call a "constitutional vacuum" must be ended so that all the parties can get down to work to prepare for free and transparent elections — the only way out of this crisis — on the basis of the various agreements, particularly the road map in the 6 April 2005 Pretoria Agreement and the 29 June 2005 Pretoria Declaration.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. Following the adjournment of this meeting, a private meeting of the Security Council will be held to continue our discussion of the item.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5279

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 October 2005

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5279th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 October 2005, at 4.35 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5279th meeting, held in private on 13 October 2005, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in Côte d'Ivoire'.

"The President recalled the invitation extended under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, as well as invitations extended under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Said Djinnit, the Commissioner of the African Union Commission, Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and to Mr. António Monteiro, High Representative of the Secretary-General for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

"Members of the Council exchanged views with the aforementioned invitees."

05-55285 (E) 131005

United Nations S/PV.5280

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5280th meeting

Friday, 14 October 2005, 12.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Katti
	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kawakami
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 5 October 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/625)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55350 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 5 October 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2005/625)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/646, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of the members to document S/2005/625, containing the text of a letter dated 5 October 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, transmitting the report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1630 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5281

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5281 st meeting

Friday, 14 October 2005, 12.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Katti
	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kawakami
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55431 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council heard a briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Mr. Oluyemi Adenidji; the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Said Djinnit; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Pierre Schori; and the High Representative for the Elections, Mr. Antonio Monteiro, during its meeting on 13 October 2005.

"The Security Council appreciates the efforts of the African Union, in particular President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Chair of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the leaders of the region, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for the Elections to promote peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, and reiterates its full support for these efforts.

"The Security Council endorses the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire adopted at its fortieth meeting at the level of heads of State and Government held on 6 October 2005 in Addis Ababa (S/2005/639), expresses its intention to take rapidly the necessary measures to support as appropriate its implementation in order to organize free, fair, open, transparent and credible elections as soon as possible and no later than 30 October 2006, and looks forward to regular reports on its implementation in accordance with paragraph 10, article (v) of the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

"The Security Council takes note, in particular, of the Peace and Security Council's request for an increase in the strength of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), without prejudice to any future decision or commitment of the Security Council in this regard. The Security Council expresses its intention to consider whether to provide additional resources to UNOCI, based on careful study of conditions in the country and of evidence of meaningful progress towards implementation of long-standing commitments under Linas-Marcoussis and other relevant agreements.

"The Security Council reaffirms that it endorsed the Linas-Marcoussis, Accra III and Pretoria Agreements, and demands that all the parties signatory to these agreements, as well as all the Ivorian parties concerned, implement fully and without delay their commitments under these agreements, in accordance with the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

"The Security Council welcomes the forthcoming visit of a high-level delegation led by Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Thabo Mbeki to Côte d'Ivoire, expresses its full support to it, and urges all the Ivorian parties to cooperate fully and in good faith with this delegation, in particular in order to ensure the rapid implementation of the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the early appointment of a Prime Minister acceptable to all parties, and to guarantee, with the support

of the United Nations, the organization of free, fair, open, transparent and credible elections.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the forthcoming visit to the region of the Chair of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), and underlines that the purpose of this visit is to assess the progress made by all parties towards the implementation of their commitments, bearing in mind the Committee's mandate under paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572 (2004), and to remind all Ivorian parties of their responsibilities for the full and rapid implementation of the peace process."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2005/49.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5282nd meeting
Monday, 17 October 2005, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ungureanu	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	Benin	Mr. Djakpo
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 10 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2005/638)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55536 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 10 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2005/638)

The President: As agreed in prior consultations, the Security Council is pleased to invite the following representatives of regional organizations to participate in this meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure: His Excellency Professor Omotayo R. Olanyan, Acting Executive Secretary and representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; His Excellency Mr. Hamidon Ali, Chairman of the New York Committee of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; His Excellency Mr. Valery Kyrychenko, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States; His Excellency Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; His Excellency Mr. Yahia A. Mahmassani, representative of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States; His Excellency Mr. Martin Erdmann, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Division of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; His Excellency Mr. Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States; and His Excellency Mr. Mark Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to all the aforementioned representatives to this meeting. I also thank them for taking the time to be with us today.

In view of the limited seating at the Council table, the first five speakers of regional organizations are seated at the table. Upon the conclusion of their statements, the Secretariat will invite the remaining representatives of regional organizations to be seated at the table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw attention to document S/2005/638, which contains the text of a letter dated 10 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a background paper on the item under consideration.

It is my particular pleasure to acknowledge the presence of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who, as we all know, attaches great importance to the subject of today's debate.

Allow me to begin the debate by making a statement in my national capacity.

I would like to state at the outset that, as an acceding country, Romania aligns itself with the statement to be made later by Ambassador Jones Parry on behalf of the European Union (EU).

I recognize with appreciation the presence of the Secretary-General, as well as his steadfast overall interest in the issue that we are addressing today. I also wish to express my particular gratitude to the leaders and representatives of regional organizations who took the time to come to New York to participate in our proceedings. I am also very pleased to acknowledge the presence in the public gallery of a group of students from Columbia University, a fine team of both Romanians and Americans.

There are 3 main reasons why Romania has taken up the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security as the flag theme of its current tenure in the Security Council. The first has to do with Romania's own record of making the regional dimension a hallmark of its long-standing foreign policy and action, as well as with its experience in contributing to conflict management in our region. Working in partnership with the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe have developed durable solutions to put an end to conflict in the Balkans. That partnership allowed for integrated solutions that addressed security issues while supporting the building of democracy and opening up the path to meaningful regional integration. If such integrated conflict management were to be

practiced in other areas of our continent where disputes and tensions continue to exist, Europe as a whole could become free of conflict in a sustainable manner, thereby finally ending insecurity and making it impossible to relapse into violence.

Romania was a key player in such undertakings as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, in 2001, and as Chair of the South-East European Cooperation Process, from 2004 to 2005. Next month, my country will once again be at the forefront of regional efforts when we assume the chairmanships of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. In the meantime, Romania has become a North Atlantic ally and acceding country to the EU. Each of those organizations is now also making contributions to restoring or consolidating peace well beyond the territorial realm of their respective memberships, be that in Afghanistan or Iraq or in the Sudan and its Darfur region.

In Romania's own neighbourhood, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations continues to be of the utmost importance to the process regarding Kosovo. The same is true for the still unresolved and protracted conflicts in the Black Sea area. Among those, the issue of the Abkhaz region of Georgia is on the agenda of the Security Council, and will be taken up again towards the end of our presidency.

In the same context, a recent example of joint undertakings by regional organizations is the launch of the EU mission for the monitoring of the border between the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, which we trust will have a positive impact on the settling of the conflict in the Transdnister region of the latter.

A second reason for our steady pursuit of the regional theme relates to the important developments that have taken place recently within the United Nations in that regard. The Secretary-General himself deserves praise and credit for having presided this year over the sixth, and arguably the most successful thus far, meeting with the heads of regional organizations having a partnership with the world Organization. The outcome of that meeting should lend itself to sustained follow-up, especially since world leaders gathered in New York last month resolved to expand consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations through formalized agreements between their respective secretariats and, as appropriate, to involve regional organizations in the work of the Security Council.

From a historical perspective, we have to acknowledge the tremendous foresight and vision the Charter's authors had in laying down a sophisticated Chapter VIII that stands the test of time despite the fact that it was crafted at a time when regionalism was anything but the driving force it certainly represents today. However, something must have changed in that regard in the six decades that have elapsed. We now have to determine how to make the most of Chapter VIII, and enhance global, regional and subregional national synergies in the areas of conflict prevention and management, as well as in upholding human rights, democracy and development.

Our third reason has to do precisely with the underlying conviction that creating the right complementarity and subsidiarity between the United Nations and regional action would significantly consolidate both and generate a considerable pool of resources assigned to peace that would ultimately lead to the ability of the international community to effectively and promptly address every tension, every threat, every open conflict and every fragile situation in the aftermath of conflict. We need to remain flexible, open and creative when expanding on the potential of global-regional cooperation.

Contributions that regional organizations can bring span a wide range of options, as I am sure today's debate with our valued partners and guests will reconfirm. Our work on cooperation with regional organizations should therefore be aimed not at identifying universal patterns, but rather at ascertaining, at the end of the day, which regional actors can be relied on in a given situation, what they can be expected to bring to the table of conflict-resolution, and how the United Nations and other regional partners can help fill in the gaps.

That approach is precisely what is upholding the draft resolution before the Council today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations that have contributed to making its contents as substantial as they currently stand, and I wish to express appreciation for the interest that regional organizations represented today have taken in the whole process.

The draft resolution provides an initial framework to make the expanded regional involvement envisaged in the outcome document work. It aims at regular meetings with heads of regional and subregional organizations and better communication with those partners. It calls upon all States to contribute to strengthening the capacities of regional and subregional organizations. It invites the Secretary-General to report on the dynamics, challenges and opportunities of a more meaningful interplay between global and regional actions in the area of peace and security.

I am persuaded that the two regional debates Romania has convened during its current term in the Council and the adoption of the draft resolution will only open up the way for the process to be carried on. Already, other elected members have manifested their readiness in that direction. At some point in time, a wider group of friends of the Council's cooperation with regional organizations could be set up. Romania would certainly look forward to participating in such an undertaking.

In fact, with practically every meeting it holds, the Security Council invariably comes across regional implications of conflicts. United Nations action is also buttressed by regional contributions in the new areas of global anti-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

I trust that the advances in the regional outreach of the Security Council will in turn lead the way to a global United Nations-regional organizations partnership that will be broader in scope than what is currently possible under Chapter VIII. I trust that we will eventually have the sort of Charter that will be devoted only to the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, for that is what will make our Organization not only live on, but deliver better on the high expectations placed on it. And that will be the lasting contribution my country, Romania, will have been able to make as a responsible elected member of the Security Council in the years 2004 and 2005.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

Once again, I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, and invite him to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: At last month's summit, world leaders supported a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, as envisaged in Chapter VIII of the Charter. We need only look at the reality of contemporary peace operations to see why.

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic growth in the range of partnerships between regional organizations and the United Nations in support of countries emerging from conflict. In peacekeeping, those partnerships have taken many different forms.

There have been transitions from regional operations to United Nations operations — as we saw in Liberia with the Economic Community of West African States — and from United Nations operations to regional ones, as we saw in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Union (EU).

The United Nations and regional partners have coordinated separate missions side by side, as with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Afghanistan and Kosovo. In Kosovo, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the EU were also included as part of the structures of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

Regional organizations have provided support within the context of a United Nations-led mission, as with the Organization of American States engagement in Haiti.

Regional operations have provided bridging support until United Nations peacekeepers received reinforcement, as we saw with the EU operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2003.

And finally, as in Darfur recently, the United Nations has provided support to a regional operation, in that case deployed by the African Union (AU).

The same trends are evident in our peacemaking operations and efforts. On important occasions, the United Nations has provided critical support to regional processes, as in Sudan, where the United Nations assisted the effort, led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, that secured the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and is now supporting the AU-led efforts on Darfur. On other occasions, regional organizations have provided vital political and technical support to United Nations efforts, as we saw with the wide-ranging EU support

for the recent United Nations peacemaking effort in Cyprus.

In short, we are increasingly drawing on the resources and legitimacy of a network of multilateral mechanisms — regional and global — to provide collective responses to the peace and security challenges of today.

That is why the Security Council has stressed the need to increase collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations and has established the practice of meeting with them annually. To support those efforts, the high-level meetings between the United Nations Secretariat and regional organizations have now also been made an annual event, and a Standing Committee has been set up to maintain strategic direction and offer broad guidance on action at the working level. The world summit gave new backing to those efforts.

The task now and the task ahead of us is to make sure that our cooperation mechanisms work as well as possible. They must be effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing. They must be flexible and responsive to our rapidly changing and integrating world, and they must be consistent with the Charter and advance its principles and purposes. I hope we can make progress in four broad areas.

The first is the need to strengthen capacity. The demands for peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding are high and seem likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Increased regional activity, within the framework of the Security Council's primary responsibility for international peace and security, will be an important component of improved international responses to conflict.

This is particularly true in Africa. We in the Secretariat see our partnership with the African Union in peacekeeping as a strategic priority, and I welcome the commitment made at the world summit to support a 10-year programme to strengthen the capacity of the African Union. We now look forward to an open and productive dialogue with the African Union and other regional partners on how to implement this programme.

Second, we should exploit our comparative strengths. Each of us may have particular capacities in responding swiftly or robustly, or in undertaking activities that are resource intensive or require long-term engagement. Let us make sure that we complement each other, rather than compete with each other. I hope that, through regular dialogue on our specialized competencies, we will gain a clear picture of who can bring what to the table. We should reflect our understandings in formalized agreements, as envisaged in the summit outcome document. Some of these could be signed even at the operational level of our respective organizations in order to move forward pragmatically and maximize results.

Third, we should deal with conflict in a holistic manner. We must focus not just on peacekeeping and peacebuilding but also on conflict prevention and resolution. The United Nations is looking to strengthen its mediation capacities as envisaged in the summit outcome document. And the stronger our capacity is, the more we can assist non-United Nations mediators, particularly partners in regional organizations. We must also focus on the broader social and economic components of peace, using the new Peacebuilding Commission to draw together the contributions of many actors, including regional organizations, in support of common peacebuilding strategies.

Fourth, and most important, we should reinforce a collective approach to security. The United Nations partnerships with regional organizations must provide the means to meet, rather than to avoid, our responsibilities under the Charter to provide an effective international response to violent conflict wherever it occurs.

At times, a regional response may be the best way to end conflict or build peace. But on other occasions, the direct involvement of the United Nations, either alone or with regional partners, may be vital. When it is, the Organization must be willing and able to act. In that spirit, I warmly welcome the world summit's recommendation that regional organizations consider placing their conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacities within the framework of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System.

Likewise, the best-equipped troop contributors should remain ready to deploy where needed around the world, either through, or in support of, regional organizations or directly through United Nations peacekeeping. That would be a tangible demonstration of our collective commitment to partnership.

May I conclude by thanking the Government of Romania for the strong interest it has shown on this

issue during its tenure on the Council. I hope that the torch of leadership will pass to another Council member, so that we build on the momentum that has been generated in promoting cooperation with regional organizations in service of the peoples of the United Nations.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his kind words.

I now invite the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to take the floor, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut.

Mr. de Brichambaut (*spoke in French*): This summer, the United Nations celebrated its sixtieth anniversary and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Helsinki Act 1975. The world summit and the resulting outcome document have indicated the road to follow for the future with regard to relations between the United Nations and regional organizations.

With 55 participating States spread over three continents, the OSCE is prepared to contribute actively to this work on the basis of the important achievements we have made with regard to norms and commitments shared by all of the participating States.

Jointly with the current presidency of OSCE — held by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr. Dimitrij Rupel — I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for this very timely meeting. I shall try to answer three questions that you have raised.

Along with the other regional organizations, the OSCE is in a position to provide strong assistance to the Security Council in its central role in preserving international peace and security. The OSCE has the Forum for Security Cooperation, which is the keeper of disarmament treaties and confidence-building measures. It has the Conflict Prevention Centre and has deployed 18 missions in the field, which in agreement with the host countries are trying to create long-term stability. In this connection, it carries out broad security responsibilities in its sphere of responsibility, which could be considered to be subsidiary to those of the Security Council. Sometimes OSCE activities are directly set out in the Council's resolutions; this is the case in Kosovo and Georgia. Its actions are carried out essentially after a crisis in the work of consolidation and stabilization, but they also follow closely so-called frozen conflicts, and the texts governing them do not exclude OSCE participation in peacekeeping operations.

This practice and the instruments entrusted to the Permanent Council under the responsibility of the current presidency are available to the Security Council, if the latter wishes to make use of them. Through the transmission of data, evaluations and analyses and by meeting requests, the OSCE and its members can provide information to the Security Council in the spirit of Article 52 of the Charter. Guidance from the Council will be very much appreciated. It can, of course, apply to one or another of the crisis cycle phases in which the OECD is able to intervene.

Similarly, the OSCE has the goal of assisting in the implementation of Security Council resolutions, for example in the area of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Contacts with the Secretariat would be facilitated if we had a framework agreement between the United Nations and the OSCE, as just mentioned by the Secretary-General. We would be prepared to have a permanent liaison office in New York. Work is constantly carried out by the State holding the OSCE presidency.

Among the regional organizations, there is a network of exchanges. It will be strengthened, and I think it is relevant for the work of this Council. Within each region, there is mutual and methodological reinforcing among regional organizations. This is the case in Europe, where exchanges between the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Union, NATO, and the Community of Independent States are close and have led to active complementarity and joint projects. The specialities of each of those organizations and their varied composition allows us to deal better with crises and to work towards the future. That is the case in the Balkans and in the Caucasus.

Among regional organizations from different continents, we can do even more. The Organization of American States (OAS) has enabled the OSCE to take its first steps in organizing the fight against terrorism. With the League of Arab States, the OSCE is working on the issue of small arms and light weapons and election monitoring. The African Union is closely following the development of institutions and policies within the OSCE that are available to it. The 18 OSCE missions are trying to strengthen civil society, a

requirement for stability and long-term development, as we have just been reminded. It unites activities in various areas to implement the commitments undertaken by all member States. The missions also provide an opportunity to gain experience that we can share with other regional organizations. In the areas of election monitoring, institution-building and support for minorities, the experience of the OSCE has something that everyone can benefit from.

Thirdly, the OSCE is based on the affirmation of shared values. It is oriented towards the discussion of ideas. It can make its contribution to the collective effort of all international organizations following the United Nations summit. The OSCE was one of the first organizations to affirm that the security of States and individuals depended on a holistic approach, with activities that covered several dimensions — first and foremost, the human dimension — and that those activities should be conducted with a long-term perspective in view. Today respect for the individual and the search for good democratic governance are values that are broadly shared by all international organizations as concepts linked to human security.

The OSCE continues to forge ahead and to be a conceptual laboratory for all its members. It is making progress in areas such as tolerance, the fight against human trafficking, freedom in the media, and environmental security and safety. Those activities are, obviously, open to other organizations. I believe it would be particularly useful for the OSCE to take part in two projects that concern all international organizations: first, the preparations for the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, which provides a new and original platform for regional organizations; and, secondly, the dialogue among civilizations, called for by the Secretary-General.

At the high-level meeting of the heads of regional organizations, presided over by the Secretary-General in July, we devised a collective framework to allow us to pool our thinking and coordinate our efforts in this area supported by everyone's goodwill. The framework should enable us to make substantive contributions as a follow-up to the 2005 world summit and, at the same time, work out some details within its outlines. The draft resolution before the Council is a new departure. It will serve as a framework so that in the future mutually beneficial exchanges will both be a permanent working method and provide mutual support. The decisive impetus will have come from Council members, and we are grateful for that.

The President: I now call on the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency Albert Ramdin.

Mr. Ramdin: On behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS), I would like to join previous speakers in expressing our pleasure to be addressing the Security Council today. We thank the Council for inviting us to do so. We also congratulate you, Mr. President, for taking the initiative to organize this meeting. We believe that it is timely and appropriate, given the high level of interest and discussion that have taken place on this topic within the General Assembly, the world summit, and other forums within the international community during the past year. We would also like to express our appreciation for the leadership, the interest and the commitment of Secretary-General Annan in this effort.

As both the OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, and I stated at the sixth high-level meeting between United Nations and regional organizations, held last July in New York, the OAS welcomes a much more structured approach to strengthening collaboration between United Nations and regional organizations in the areas of democracy, development and security, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding. We are pleased and ready to contribute in a substantial manner to the recently established Standing Committee. We believe that a first critical step in establishing a division of labour — defining the roles and responsibilities of the regional organizations, the United Nations and other key actors in the region — is to adopt a shared agenda within the framework of the United Nations on issues of early conflict prevention, security and development.

The OAS views closer cooperation with other multilateral organizations as a critical component of its new action plan for strengthening regional and democratic governability in the Americas. As is well known, the OAS has been actively engaged in several conflict prevention, facilitation, and mediation efforts over the past years. Currently, the OAS is actively involved in facilitating a political settlement of crises in Haiti, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia, through several mechanisms. OAS engagement is not limited to immediate resolution of conflicts, but also provides technical assistance and capacity-building for

the longer term. The OAS uses several options for engagement: missions of the Secretary General, delegations of the Permanent Council in Washington, D.C., special envoys, long-term missions — such as those we have in Haiti and in Colombia — and technical support, as mentioned earlier.

Aside from what the OAS can offer in the way of political mediation, shuttle diplomacy and technical cooperation, the OAS has the advantage of both being able to convene member States to address issues and the ability to work with all levels of Government in forging consensus on important policies, both nationally and subregionally. That capacity for dialogue and decision-making by consensus is the preventive capacity the OAS brings to United Nations regional cooperation.

We recognized the valuable work of the Security Council and acknowledge the important leadership role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security. However, there is much more that can be done to strengthen our respective institutions through closer collaboration, joint analyses, joint implementation of technical cooperation, focused attention on structural prevention and improved, streamlined funding for preventive multilateral actions. Specifically in response to a few of the questions outlined in the concept paper circulated by the President of the Security Council, I would like to highlight a few views that we share and consider important.

First and foremost, I think it is important to understand that the OAS strives to work subregionally, within the Americas, wherever possible. In that respect, we must acknowledge and work with the subregional organizations, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Central American Integration System and others, which play a critical role in the development of regional stability. Those subregional organizations should strive to work in tandem with the lead multilateral institutions, searching for ways to complement the work of the OAS and the United Nations. As the Secretary-General mentioned, Haiti is a good example both of effective OAS-United Nations cooperation and collaboration and of collaboration among subregional organizations — such as the Association of Caribbean States and CARICOM — in support of Haiti.

We must take into account the many political and institutional lessons learned in our respective areas of expertise and share them with other interested actors. Perhaps the Security Council would consider inviting regional organizations on an annual basis to present key findings from their respective peacebuilding and post-conflict missions. The Standing Committee, now that it has been established, could play a leading role in organizing that type of presentation. The Peacebuilding Commission could allow for representation from every region through participation of a high-level official from regional or subregional organizations. We believe that regional organizations could contribute to the Peacebuilding Commission by assisting in the definition of political objectives and priority areas of peacebuilding in a given country.

We recognize that in particular instances a regional organization may be better suited to take a lead in pre-conflict or post-conflict situations. Political clout, experience in a country and established trust with political actors may allow a regional organization to facilitate a better solution. In the cases of Bolivia and Ecuador in the Western Hemisphere, our role as the Organization of American States has been critical in that regard.

Both the United Nations and regional organizations should, when relevant, place priority on capacity-building after peacekeeping, peacebuilding or crisis support operations. Regional organizations and agencies that continue democratic consolidation efforts through peacebuilding activities should be identified early and supported by the United Nations through mobilized funding and cooperation. In the case of Haiti, that has worked very well between the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The challenge for the new OAS leadership — both Secretary General Insulza and I were elected just a couple of months ago — is to transform the Organization of American States institutionally and organizationally in such a way that it can deal much more effectively with the new intra-State challenges in the Western Hemisphere. The OAS is working to address those challenges as I speak, striving to develop a far more proactive role in conflict prevention through quiet diplomacy, greater cooperation with other subregional organizations — some of which I mentioned earlier — the sharing of information and experiences, improved analysis and review of normative and legal frameworks. All of those

strategies, in our view, will enhance the capacity and capability of the OAS in early conflict prevention and will help to strengthen the multilateral efforts of regional organizations in the Americas.

Finally, we look forward to working with the United Nations and with other regional organizations to strengthen our capacity to effectively address the many conflicts throughout the world and, in our case, specifically in the Americas.

The President: I now invite the Acting Executive Secretary representing the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Professor Omotayo R. Olanyan, to take the floor.

Mr. Olanyan: I should like to begin by conveying to you, Mr. Foreign Minister, the warm greetings of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, and by thanking you for organizing this important debate, which is vital to our organization and to development in Africa. His inability to be here today is due not to lack of interest, but rather to critical official engagements on the continent.

The debate in which we are participating today offers a useful opportunity to examine past experiences of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. It will enable us to highlight those things that we have done well and those that we have not. The lessons of successes and failures will provide useful guidance for the consolidation of future cooperation.

It is well known that the objectives of regional organizations can differ in political, military, strategic and economic ways. For us in Africa, our regional organization is essentially for development. But our experience has shown that development can occur only in a peaceful atmosphere. For that reason, we have developed an effective mechanism to address conflict issues on the continent.

Our experience in cooperation has been very useful. Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. On that basis, we have put in place a significant number of cooperative agreements and adopted several resolutions. Our cooperation is both political and economic. In that regard, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations have collaborated with the AU and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States, in addressing conflict prevention, management and resolution and peacekeeping operations on the continent. At the moment, the United Nations is working closely with the African Union and subregional organizations on the ongoing crises in Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan and Somalia.

Here, I should like to refer to the sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations, convened at United Nations Headquarters on 25 and 26 July 2005. Among the conclusions reached at the meeting was that the issues of abject poverty, the depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, pandemics and the social ills of crime and corruption should be resolved in order to ensure international peace and security. More important, the meeting supported the proposed 10-year capacity-building plan for the African Union, which is a laudable action that could effectively promote global peace and stability.

What are the basic elements of cooperation for stabilization? It is necessary to state that the stabilization process entails, among other things, harmony and change within and among the components of the regional system and involves regional systemic factors. Harmony within and among those components depends on factors inside and outside the system. Moreover, the inbuilt capacity to absorb and convert extraregional systemic factors can determine the strength of regional stabilization.

It therefore follows that cooperation for stabilization should target major weaknesses in the institutions and operations of regional organizations and the development problems of their member States.

Regional stabilization should be about cooperation aimed at increased and sufficient support for the consolidation of the African Union Commission. The United Nations, as noted earlier, has already been supporting the Commission's efforts in that regard. However, it is clear that much needs to be done to build up the institution in order to enhance its operationalization. There are deficiencies in the area of human resource capacity-building. That is evident in various departments of the organization, including the Political Department and the Peace and Security

Council. Support for long-term consultants and training programmes is necessary to correct those deficiencies and to enable the Commission to fully carry out its administrative responsibilities. The organs of the AU, including the Peace and Security Council and the Pan-African Parliament, should be strengthened, and specialized committees, the Court of Justice and financial institutions should be established to enable the AU to perform effectively in the area of regional stabilization.

Regional stabilization in Africa is about conflict prevention. The United Nations has a track record of cooperation with the AU in that respect. As it is, however, the AU is far from having a full complement of mechanisms in place to address this complex issue, which has several dimensions. The AU is resolved to, among other things, establish an early warning system to provide information about the development of political and economic crises in African countries. Analytical information from such an early warning system is vital so that the AU can, in collaboration with the United Nations and with relevant subregional organizations, take necessary preventive actions that will not allow crises to degenerate into conflicts or wars. Further cooperation with the United Nations is desirable for the full establishment of an effective early warning system, which would constitute a major stabilizing factor in regional processes.

Regional stabilization is about effective conflict management and resolution. Again, these are areas where the United Nations has cooperated with the AU and where a number of successes have been achieved. Nevertheless, there is still room for further improvement in that respect. There is a need for the development of a mechanism for the rapid termination of hostilities, the implementation of peace agreements and the transition to democratic governance in countries in crisis. The more effective those mechanisms are, the better the chances of regional stabilization.

Regional stabilization is about peacebuilding. In that area, the support of the United Nations is very important for countries emerging from conflict, but the United Nations and the African Union do not have such a mechanism at the moment.

The African Union welcomes the decision by heads of State and Government at the 2005 summit in New York to establish the Peacebuilding Commission. Peacebuilding entails redressing political, legal, economic, social and infrastructural problems at the end of a war. We welcome the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to immediately put in place a mechanism for establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, and we urge that an appropriate role be assigned to regional organizations, which are indispensable partners in the peacebuilding process. Sound post-conflict peacebuilding is a requirement for the prevention of the reactivation of conflict and for laying the foundation for economic growth, development and, therefore, stability.

Regional stabilization implies support for the AU in its efforts to consolidate democracy and good governance. At its summits, the AU has adopted several decisions in those areas. Democracy and good governance should be strengthened in countries that have not experienced crises. The political, legal and economic and social framework for democracy and good governance should be developed to ensure a peaceful political transition. The United Nations is already cooperating in those areas, in particular through the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme. We encourage increased cooperation with the African Union and African countries in order to ensure national and regional stability.

Regional stabilization is about sustainable economic growth and development. We have in place several programmes, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the AU Strategic Plan. Currently, Africa is lagging behind in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, Africa welcomes the proposals on development and the recognition of the special needs of Africa contained in the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1). The stabilization of the continent requires the swift implementation of those recommendations, in particular those relating to an increase in official development assistance and foreign direct investment, the expansion of foreign trade, the cancellation of external debt and the halting and the reversal of the spread of pandemic HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

Stunted development is one of the root causes of crises and wars in Africa. Cooperation on implementation should ensure coherence and harmonization. Cooperation should be sustainable and

lead to equitable economic growth in countries. In the absence of sustainable and equitable economic growth and development, economically weak countries in the continent will be more susceptible to crises and internal conflict.

Furthermore, regional stabilization implies regular consultation by the United Nations with the leadership of regional organizations. The dynamic nature of issues in the various regions suggests that there should be regular meetings to discuss issues and reorder priorities in order to effectively resolve them. The United Nations, as already noted, has further developed that arrangement. Its decision at the sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, held in July 2005, on a mechanism for coordination and implementation should be speedily implemented to facilitate regional stabilization.

Finally, the regional stabilization process is about sound political support for the leadership of regional organizations. In the day-to-day activities of regional organizations, the leadership provides direction and responses to issues as they arise in the region. Those actions are generally carried out in consultation with the United Nations and other stakeholders. Cooperation for stabilization should focus on that important area. The cooperation of the United Nations gives regional leaders significant legitimacy. The more cooperation there is with the leadership of regional organizations, the better will be their ability to provide solutions vis-à-vis the forces of destabilization in the region.

In conclusion, I reaffirm that global stability derives from regional stability. It is also an irrefutable fact that regional organizations have the capacity to meaningfully address regional issues if they are adequately empowered through sufficient cooperation with the United Nations. The African Union has the leadership role in the continent's stabilization process for peace, security and sustainable economic growth and development. Now is the time for the United Nations to build on its achievements in cooperation with regional organizations.

Mr. Wang Guangya (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania as he presides over today's meeting.

We appreciate the statements of the Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the representatives of regional organizations.

Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security is a major issue and a challenging task. The world today faces many interconnected threats, such as armed conflict, terrorist attacks, arms proliferation, humanitarian crises, the spread of disease and drug abuse. Those problems share the common characteristic of being transnational and transregional. To deal effectively with those problems, the United Nations must assume its full role, and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations must be strengthened. In the United Nations system, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In recent years, regional organizations have taken on an increasingly important role in conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, counter-terrorism and the response to humanitarian crises. Their work has provided effective support and assistance to the work of the Security Council. The High-level Plenary Meeting outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1) recognized that role.

In that context, I would like to make the following three points. First, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, all countries and regions recognize the principle that the Security Council is at the heart of the international machinery for collective security. It is also universally recognized that regional organizations play a positive role in facilitating the resolution of regional issues.

Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter establishes the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of disputes. It also provides guidance for the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations. The summit outcome document states clearly that a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is required. That places a demand on our future work and provides an important foundation for the conduct of such cooperation.

Secondly, in the sphere of increasing coordination on practical implementation, regional organizations have unique advantages in dealing with problems in their respective regions. When considering regional hot

spots, the Security Council should heed and respect the views and the recommendations of regional organizations. In the implementation process, the Council should give due attention to the unique advantages of regional organization. For their part, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, regional organizations should take the initiative to keep the Council informed on their actions in a timely manner and keep channels of communication open. It should be noted that regional situations vary greatly, as do regional organizations. Communication and cooperation between the two sides should be governed by the principle of flexibility and should be results-oriented, and efforts should be made to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach.

Thirdly, we should strengthen mutual assistance and give prominence to Africa. Many issues on the Security Council's agenda relate to Africa. China greatly appreciates the positive efforts of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, as well as of mediation and good offices missions, in seeking solutions to African conflicts.

The necessary financial resources and logistical and technical support must be provided with a view to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and African regional and subregional organizations so that the peacekeeping and peacebuilding capacities of those organizations can be enhanced.

We welcome the decision in the Summit Outcome document to develop and implement a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union. Such an endeavour will enable the United Nations to better cope with regional conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa. It will also benefit the African countries themselves.

There are many regional and subregional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region that are playing an important role. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is one such mechanism. Since its establishment in 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has gradually developed into an effective mechanism for promoting regional security, stability and development. Last year, it was granted observer status in the General Assembly, and this year it participated in the summit. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization will continue to work, in a spirit of mutual benefit and trust, to promote equality, consultation and respect for cultural diversity and shared development. It will pursue an external policy of not allying with nor targeting other countries and regions, as well as of abiding by the principle of openness. It will cooperate closely with the United Nations with a view to contributing to regional and international peace and security.

Finally, China endorses the draft resolution prepared by the delegation of Romania, which we thank for its efforts.

The President: I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I would like, first of all, to sincerely thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this debate, which provides us with this opportunity to exchange ideas with the representatives of regional and subregional organizations on the best way of boosting cooperation with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations has increased, and the prospects that are now opening up are more promising than ever. Much remains to be done, however, if we are to better prepare those two partners to face, together, existing and new threats to global peace. The purpose of our meeting today is to make an assessment of the state of such cooperation, to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and to consider what might be done in order to improve it. I would like to comment on just three elements.

The first element relates to the need to rationalize the framework for cooperation and to ensure that it remains adaptable, since we are dealing with matters that are continually evolving. A great deal of work has been carried out in that area by the General Assembly and the Security Council. In our view, this is not a question of rewriting Chapter VIII of the Charter, but of exploring, as much as possible, the resources at our disposal and of basing ourselves on a liberal and pragmatic reading of its provisions.

We must recognize, in this respect — and we pointed this out during our discussions on the draft resolution to be adopted at the end of the debate — that there is a degree of resistance to going off the beaten track. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is not optional but is an imperative need imposed by new global realities. Indeed, the new, complex challenges confronting our

system of collective security require us to strengthen cooperation between all players — the United Nations, regional organizations, Governments and civil society.

Furthermore, regional organizations are playing an increasing role in the settlement of crises in their respective geographic areas, and legitimately aspire to take on increased responsibilities. The Security Council is not being asked to delegate some of its responsibilities to those regional organizations but, rather, to make good use of the contributions of such organizations through improved interaction, on the basis of the principles of complementarity and comparative advantage. The contribution of the African Union (AU) and subregional organizations in Africa in the area of political mediation and conflict prevention, as well as, increasingly, conflict management, thanks in particular to the very active role played by the Peace and Security Council of the AU, is key in this regard.

The second element relates to the mobilization of resources to help regional organizations and to strengthen their capacity for action. The United Nations has acquired a body of experience in planning and managing multifaceted and complex operations, which it can and must share with regional organizations. Although much progress has been made in helping regional organizations, in particular in Africa, to develop their capacity for intervention, greater efforts are required. The Secretariat is prepared to do more, but it is has to deal with insufficient resources and, sometimes, lack of political will on the part of Member States, which prevent it from seeking innovative solutions. In this context, the Darfur crisis provides a clear illustration of the gap that exists between statements and declarations of good faith and practice; it is a test case for cooperation with regional organizations — the yardstick by which the international community's efforts, and its success and failures, will be measured.

The third element relates to the stabilization and peacebuilding phase, during which the United Nations and regional organizations have a great deal to do together. That phase, which is generally considered to be crucial for the success of a peacebuilding process, does not receive the attention that it deserves. We hope that the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission will help to bridge that gap.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): Denmark appreciates this opportunity to discuss the issue of improved cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. We welcome the Romanian initiative to hold this debate and the fact that the Foreign Minister of Romania is presiding over our discussion.

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement to be delivered later by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union (EU).

We welcome the participation today of representatives of a wide range of regional organizations. Their contributions to enhancing international peace and security are of the utmost importance.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations should be developed even further. We feel that two areas in particular are in need of further and timely attention, namely, the African dimension and counter-terrorism. Those two issues are also reflected in the draft resolution initiated by Romania — a draft resolution that Denmark wholeheartedly supports.

In relation to the African dimension, progress has been made. We welcome the continued efforts to strengthen practical cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), as demonstrated most clearly in the case of the African Mission in Sudan.

We would like to encourage enhanced African ownership and participation in conflict management on the continent. The Security Council should explore how best to support ongoing efforts to develop the African security architecture and work closely with the African Union and regional organizations to advance ways and means of cooperation.

Such a coherent approach stimulates operative cooperation between the United Nations, the EU and other international actors. The goal should be to establish efficient partnerships and an equitable division of labour among organizations involved in conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

Let me note that Denmark contributes actively to enhancing African regional and subregional organizations' conflict-prevention capacity, through the European Union and through substantial bilateral assistance. Thus, Denmark provides, on a bilateral

basis, through our Africa Programme for Peace, $40 million to capacity-building.

In relation to the fight against terrorism, Denmark firmly believes that regional organizations can and should play a particularly important role. In fact, we will not succeed in this fight unless regional and subregional organizations firmly commit themselves to that challenge.

First, the more strongly regional organizations vow to condemn terrorism in all its forms, the more successful the international community will be in its fight against that phenomenon. Such an unambiguous message is essential to helping dispel any remaining doubts that terrorism in some form could be acceptable. It is not.

Secondly, as the Council has noted on several occasions, many States are willing to do more in the fight against terrorism but lack the capacity to do so. A key role for regional organizations is to assist members in implementing their international obligations in this field, including by helping them to develop the necessary capacity to fulfil those obligations.

That is a challenge of which the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is fully aware. As Chairman of that Committee, I urge the full cooperation of all regional and subregional organizations in our collective fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, we see improved cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations as a work in progress. Much has been achieved already, notably on the ground, not least in the Sudan. With the overall goal of enhancing international peace and security, Denmark remains committed to supporting concrete initiatives to further improve cooperation in future. The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission will be a very important step in that regard.

The President: I invite Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, to take the floor.

Mr. Davis: I join my colleagues in thanking the presidency very much indeed for the invitation to attend this meeting.

I should like to group my remarks under five headings: first, the general relationship between the United Nations and the Council of Europe; secondly, the work of the Council of Europe on conflict prevention; thirdly, the work of the Council of Europe in post-conflict situations; fourthly, our work with the United Nations; and, lastly, what the Council of Europe can offer the United Nations in terms of future work and in the context of the concept paper which was issued a week ago.

Turning, therefore, to our general relationship with the United Nations, we at the Council of Europe believe that it is the responsibility of the United Nations to maintain world peace, and we support it in its work to that end. We believe that there is a link between global security and regional security, and we believe also that there is a link between security, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Of course, democracy, human rights and the rule of law are the core business of the Council of Europe. Those are the reasons why we at the Council of Europe are strong believers in multilateralism and in the world summit pledge to support a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The Council of Europe has a wide range of activities, but most of it could be covered by the generic description of conflict prevention. One good example would be our activities under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. That is a legal instrument which was developed and adopted by the Council of Europe after the changes in Europe in the early 1990s.

Much is known about ethnic conflict and ethnic cleansing in Europe during that period; much less is known about potential ethnic conflict which did not materialize. I choose an example from your own country, Mr. President. In the early 1990s, there was considerable tension on ethnic minority issues and ethnic minority grounds between Romania and Hungary. Contrary to the former Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary chose the Council of Europe way. Both countries signed and ratified the Framework Convention in 1995. The conflict remained potential, not real, and therefore largely unknown.

That example illustrates a trend that I, as Secretary-General of the organization, intend to encourage, namely not only to maintain high standards in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, but also to give a direct and robust response to new and specific challenges on our continent.

As everyone sitting on the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee knows, the Council of Europe has a threefold approach to fighting terrorism. Better legal cooperation, exemplified by our conventions on the suppression of terrorism, cybercrime and money-laundering, respect for human rights and the promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue are some of the ways to address the root causes of terrorism.

We pay special attention to the balance between vigorous measures to combat terrorism on the one hand and strict protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the other. It is our firm view that the absolute prohibition on torture, inhuman and degrading treatment must be upheld. Today a State cannot be a member of the Council of Europe without agreeing to be monitored by a committee on the prevention of torture.

As for intercultural dialogue, for some years we have had dialogue with other continents through our North-South Centre, based in Lisbon. This has included Africa. In coming months and years, we intend to increase and intensify that dialogue, especially on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, in the Middle East, and in Central Asian republics.

Turning now to our other experience of dealing with post-conflict situations in Europe, we have been much involved in multilateral action and individual actions in the Balkans and the South Caucasus in particular.

There are two misunderstandings about the work of the Council of Europe. We give a very broad interpretation of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and we regard our work as properly including work on good governance, which includes local and regional government, work on education, culture, cultural heritage, youth and social cohesion issues.

The second misunderstanding is that we are a Strasbourg organization. It is true that we are based in Strasbourg, but we are not restricted to Strasbourg. In recent years our activity has increased in our member States, inside our member States, often in partnership with other regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union, and with the United Nations — the Balkans being a case in point; there has already been some reference to Kosovo.

Turning to our work with the United Nations, let me say that it is not restricted to Kosovo. We have a lot of cooperation already with some United Nations agencies. I think that in some cases, it could be better. That is why I would welcome the idea put forward by my colleague from the OSCE of a framework agreement with the United Nations. We would certainly like to be part of that. I also look forward very much to working with the Peacebuilding Commission in future.

We offer certain assets and resources to the United Nations. We have not only our own expertise; we also have intergovernmental experts: the experts working for our member States - the 46 member countries of the Council of Europe. We offer the Parliamentary Assembly, which has representatives from the parliaments of our 46 member countries. We have a Congress of Local and Regional Authorities which is very similar, with representatives of local government. We have the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance dealing with issues of intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We have the Court for the protection of human rights, which applies to all our member States and whose rulings must be obeyed in our member States.

We have, of course, a very strong relationship — indeed, a special statutory relationship — with non-governmental organizations, which gives a grassroots link to civil society in Europe. We also have the networks created by expertise, training and other assistance activities in our member States.

The United Nations Security Council has the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in all parts of the world, including Europe. My invitation to you, Mr. President, is for the Security Council to make best use of what the Council of Europe has to offer.

I look forward to our cooperation during the Romanian presidency of the Council of Europe, which is going to start in November. The presidency of our Committee of Ministers, a decision-making body, will last from November until May of next year, and Romania will be followed by the Russian Federation. I am sure that they, too, will wish to encourage this work, in alliance and cooperation with the United Nations.

The President: I thank the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for his kind words.

I now invite the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, His Excellency Mr. Valery Kyrychenko, to take the floor.

Mr. Kyrychenko (*spoke in Russian*): We hope that this meeting will enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations in such areas as the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in conflict prevention and settlement, and in post-conflict peacebuilding.

As is known, the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was a very difficult matter. In essence, it was formed under the pressure of the need for a firm response to the appearance of a fundamentally new geopolitical situation. This, in fact, was compounded by a problem that arose because of a deep crisis in the economy and other spheres of public life in the former Soviet areas.

By and large, however, the formation of the CIS put an end to a chaotic process of break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to its destructive impulse; this historical fact is recognized by the entire international community. It is an unmistakable achievement of the CIS that it formed new structures for the establishment of fundamentally new inter-State relations, allowed for a peaceful way for political disengagement for the former Soviet Republics and promoted the establishment of new sovereign States.

Nonetheless, we were not able to avoid conflicts and contradictions. Unfortunately, some of them spilled over into open confrontation and conflict. The most serious were in Tajikistan, Georgia, Moldova and the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Major factors that promoted the emergence of conflict situations in the former Soviet areas are as follows. Socio-economic problems worsened and social disparity and polarization increased among the population. There was a lack of clarity and mixed interests among the major geo-political centres with regard to new independent States with regard to spheres of influence. Political forces struggled for power, and there was an upturn for the armed forces. Problems in inter-ethnic relations arose, and there was a mass exodus of national minorities, especially Russian speakers. Clan and other types of conflicts grew, and in regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus the role and influence of Islamic fundamentalism, and of international centres of terrorism, the drug trade and other criminal phenomena, increased.

For the stabilization process, it is very important to define and analyse possible reasons for the emergence of conflict in each specific situation, in order to prevent and settle those conflicts, for peacebuilding in the post-conflict area, and to ensure the security and strengthening of trust and confidence.

In the CIS, the system to prevent and settle conflicts, post-conflict peacebuilding and the strengthening of the stabilization process are at a formative stage. Nevertheless, through the efforts of the CIS countries — first and foremost, of the Russian Federation — and in close cooperation with, and with the help of, United Nations structures and those of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we have been able to achieve some results.

There have been a number of cases of States in conflict where we have broken through the stage of armed conflict and gone to political dialogue. We searched for compromise and solutions; as a result of the Russian Federation's mediation in Nagorno-Karabakh, on 12 May 1994 a ceasefire was established. In Transdniester, a ceasefire has been in effect since July 1994, on the basis of the agreements and principles for a peaceful settlement of armed conflict. In the conflict area in Abkhazia, Georgia, since 14 May 1994 we have had an agreement on a ceasefire and disengagement of forces.

We must especially point out that in 2000 we were able to settle the conflict in Tajikistan. A settlement was signed on 27 June 1997 in Moscow between the Tajik officials and the opposition, an overall agreement on the establishment of peace and national harmony. As a consequence, hostile activities ended, and the collective CIS peace forces and the United Nations observer missions were dissolved. That played a significant role in the Tajik settlement.

Now the next stage — that is, post-conflict peacebuilding — has occurred. In order to intensify cooperation, the Executive Committee of the CIS has established working relations with the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding. In October of last year, a Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership was signed between our organizations for a post-conflict recovery for the Republic of Tajikistan. The end of the civil war in that country is a clear example of how, through the joint efforts of the United Nations,

the OSCE and the CIS, an armed conflict in one of the bloodiest conflict areas at the end of the twentieth century can be practically settled.

We in the CIS understand that the lack of settlement in the conflict in the territories of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and in and around Nagorno-Karabakh essentially has an impact on the political, social and economic conditions for development in those States that have been drawn into conflict. Those factors have made difficult the process of a democratic society and prevent the full functioning of a free trade area. They are a threat to peace and stability in the region and in the CIS as a whole.

For this reason, we must find ways for new forms of cooperation and joint action among regional organizations in their areas of responsibility, as well as new approaches to the stabilization process. We agree that developing cooperation between regional organizations is more important than ever, since the major threat to security stems from new global conflicts and challenges.

In this connection, we feel it possible to put forward some proposals designed to consolidate efforts and cooperation in the prevention and settlement of conflicts and in post-conflict peacebuilding. The CIS has adopted a concept on the prevention and settlement of conflicts in the territory of States of the CIS. Such documents are being worked out by other international organizations as well. Through a comparative analysis, we have been able to prepare an overall document, which includes a platform for security adopted at the OSCE Istanbul Summit.

Also, as we see it, one urgent task is the working out of a comprehensive plan for measures for building trust in the political, humanitarian, environmental and other spheres, such as the reasons for lack of confidence among States, and retaining international membership of the United Nations, missions, and the OSCE in areas of conflict. We think we could have a significant number of members in missions who, to our mind, could be nationals of CIS countries that are not parties to the conflict and that are not neighbours to those in conflict. With this approach, we could avoid duplication of effort. At the same time, we could expand the possibility for close cooperation in the political and military spheres, which are brought into play in the peacekeeping and stabilization processes. In order to achieve maximum harmony and effectiveness in the activities of the CIS and the United Nations, we should provide a clear machinery for consultations among the interested structures and an exchange of information on the status of the settlement of a conflict, on the situation in the regions and on planned and implemented stabilization measures.

Joint seminars and conferences, with the participation of their leaders and specialists from the relevant structures of international organizations, might be of some assistance. By using such a form of cooperation, we could not only exchange information and experience, but also could promote a quest for new methods and forms to prevent, localize and settle conflicts and for post-conflict peacebuilding.

Another urgent matter is cooperation in settling the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh. We have in mind the participation of representatives of the CIS Executive Committee as observers in the negotiation process in the Karabakh settlement. That was expressed by the President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian, and the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev.

Regarding the Transdniester conflict, we also believe that the representatives of the Executive Committee could take part as observers in the negotiation process and in settling the conflict in and around Transdniester.

Regarding a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, we are compelled to note the two key issues — the future political status of Abkhazia within Georgia, and the problem of the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes — still have not been solved. For this reason, the major task this year, as we see it, is the creation of favourable conditions for negotiations, establishing an atmosphere of at least some minimal degree of trust among the parties, support for the efforts of the Russian Federation and development of the Sochi process for a settlement.

Mr. Denisov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are pleased to welcome you, Sir, as President of the Security Council. Your presence in this Chamber, as well as the participation in today's meeting of the Secretary-General and leaders and representatives of a number of leading regional organizations, convincingly demonstrates the importance of today's discussion.

In the outcome document of the 2005 summit, world leaders stated their commitment to ensuring international security on the basis of a comprehensive, collective approach and strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations. An important element for further efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the world Organization, as the major multilateral institution, is the gradual development of multifaceted cooperation and coordination on the part of the United Nations and the Security Council with regional and other intergovernmental organizations, above all in the sphere of peacekeeping. Such interaction, as is clearly set forth in the outcome document, must continue to be firmly based on the Charter, in particular, Chapter VIII. No less important is the reaffirmation by world leaders of the need for strict respect for basic principles and criteria for international peacekeeping activities at all stages of the processes of preventing and settling conflicts, and also during post-conflict peacebuilding.

First and foremost, what we have in mind is the immutability of the principle of the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its exclusive prerogative to sanction the use of force by the international community. The agenda of cooperation between the United Nations and regional partners is becoming ever more multifaceted and larger in scope.

In addition to peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks, we now have the fight against weapons of mass destruction, the illegal spread of small arms and light weapons, the settlement of other destabilizing transborder problems and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. In the area of cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and regional partners — and the list of these organizations is well known — a great deal of positive experience has been gained. That has to be built upon, making use of it to solve increasingly complex problems in the framework of the multifunctional peacekeeping operations. We welcome precisely this attitude, expressed today by representatives of the relevant organizations, including the speaker who directly preceded me, the Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth for Independent States (CIS), Mr. Kyrychenko.

The peacekeepers of the CIS, along with the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, are maintaining security and stability in the area of the Georgian/Abkhazian conflict. This is not an easy task, but there is no real alternative to interaction in this format. Russia is determined to continue energetically promoting enhanced trust and cooperation, first and foremost in the peacekeeping sphere between the United Nations and the CIS.

Of great potential is the cooperation being established between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. In the framework of this organization intensive work is under way to create its own peacekeeping potential, and that includes involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is playing an important role in ensuring stability and security in the Euro-Asian region. At its last summit, in Astana, Kazakhstan, its members expressed willingness to develop cooperation with the United Nations on a whole series of timely tasks, including the fight against international terrorism and illegal drug trafficking, as well as promoting post-conflict settlement arrangements in Afghanistan.

We are convinced that in developing the decisions of the summit, regional partners and the world Organization should continue to meet each other halfway. We hope that the regional and subregional organizations will offer their resources in a more active way and help both in the prevention of conflicts and in peacekeeping. For its part, the United Nations and the Security Council should continue to pay unflagging attention to strengthening coordination and cooperation with these structures, with a reasonable division of labour and respect for the authority of the Security Council.

In this context, we note with satisfaction the decision of the summit in favour of an official agreement between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of the regional organizations. One of the short-term priorities in the implementation of these summit decisions is the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission, which is called upon to help the Security Council and, to the extent possible, other United Nations bodies in the speedy recovery of countries emerging from crisis and establishing guarantees to prevent conflicts from re-emerging. We are certain that members of the United Nations will be in a position to ensure the launching of the activities of this Commission at the beginning of next year.

Russia consistently supports the holding of regular high-level meetings between the United Nations Secretary-General and the leadership of regional organizations, and we note the agreements achieved to increase such a practice, including by holding such meetings on an annual basis.

We hope that adoption today of the Security Council resolution at the initiative of Romania and, on the whole, the outcome of today's discussion, will allow us to make progress in the process of improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that way we will be able, through our joint efforts, to fully achieve the potential of the collective security system set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the commitment to which was clearly demonstrated by the participants in the 2005 summit.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): My delegation extends a warm welcome to the honourable minister of Romania and thanks Romania for organizing this important and timely debate. We also acknowledge the presence of regional organizations participating in this debate.

We find this debate useful because regional organizations play a vital role in maintaining peace and stability in their respective regions. It is also timely, as regional organizations have become increasingly involved in conflict resolution and peacekeeping missions, alongside those of the United Nations. Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter provides a basis for a symbiotic relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Numerous regional organizations have actively participated in the settlement of local disputes, either on their own initiative or by reference from the Security Council. The active involvement of the European Union in Kosovo, the Caribbean Community and the Organization of American States in Haiti, the African Union in Burundi and Sudan, and the Economic Community of West African States in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire are just some of the cases in point.

Several comprehensive reports have been issued by the Secretary-General, noting the level of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. The General Assembly has also passed relevant resolutions on the subject, calling for, among other things, assistance in strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting underscores the need for a closer working partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations such as the African Union

As the primary organ of the United Nations responsible for peace and security, the Security Council has the power and the prerogative to advance that cooperation to a higher level in order to make it more effective and responsive to challenges that threaten international peace and security. We wish to support your initiative, Mr. President, and that of your delegation, in advancing the debate on the subject to institutionalize cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. We also support the practice of holding annual high-level meetings between the Secretariat and heads of regional organizations.

While appreciating the existing cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, we strongly believe that more can be done to improve that cooperation. That is particularly important in the areas of capacity and resource mobilization. Regional organizations have the advantage of physical proximity to conflicts as well as a greater understanding of their causes, but they are constrained by capacity and operational requirements. Supporting stand-by arrangements and rapid deployment capability is one of the ways to strengthen regional peacekeeping capacities. The 10-year United Nations programme to strengthen peacekeeping in Africa, contained in the outcome document of the high-level summit, is a most relevant initiative in that regard.

The new Peacebuilding Commission will usher in a new era of partnership between the African Union and its subregions to stabilize peace and to anchor good governance and sustainable development in countries emerging from conflict in Africa. There is also a need for political partnership between regional organizations and the United Nations to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. The working relationship that has evolved between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as in the cases of Côte d'Ivoire and the Sudan, needs to be encouraged and institutionalized. It is a mutually supporting partnership in a creative and complementary division of labour. That kind of

partnership enhances multilateralism in promoting collective security at all levels.

While we recognize the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, we are also mindful of the advantages of horizontal cooperation among regional organizations. That is important in facilitating the sharing of resources, expertise and experiences. The European Union, for instance, has been very helpful to Africa in establishing the African Peace Facility, as well as in providing technical assistance and financial support to the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community to support their conflict management efforts. The ongoing partnership in Darfur between the African peacekeeping mission there, along with the support from the United Nations the European Union, NATO and bilateral assistance, is a case in point.

It is our hope that this debate will contribute positively to the efforts to establish a more coherent cooperation framework between the United Nations and regional organizations that will ensure effective maintenance of international peace and security, sustained by regional cooperation in the economic, social and cultural initiatives undertaken by countries of the various regions in a much more proactive fashion.

We thank the delegation of Romania for preparing the draft resolution on this subject, which we fully support.

The President: I thank the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

Mr. Oshima (Japan): We thank the Romanian presidency for its timely initiative to once again convene a meeting as a follow-up to the previous one held under its presidency in July 2004, to focus the Council's attention on the important question of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We also appreciate the presence of Romania's Foreign Minister to preside over this important debate.

My delegation welcomes as well the participation in this debate of regional and subregional organizations, representing different parts of the world, that are actively involved in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and in promoting cooperation with the United Nations. We benefit enormously from their comments, ideas and proposals.

I welcome in particular the participation today of an important subregional organization from our part of the world. I am referring in particular to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which plays a vital role in promoting cooperation, harmony and resilience for economic and social development, as well as, in recent years, in such political- and security-related arenas as counter-terrorism and fighting piracy.

As is widely acknowledged, regional organizations are playing an increasingly important role in the prevention, resolution and management of conflicts, including in addressing their root causes. That is a very welcome and important development that deserves our full encouragement and support. The 2005 outcome document of the Assembly's High-level Plenary Meeting did just that by supporting a stronger relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, including through the increased involvement of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council and enhanced support for capacity-building at the regional level.

We note in particular, and applaud, the increasingly active and effective role played by the African Union in the prevention of conflict and political mediation. We welcome the political commitment and the increasing sense of regional ownership with which the African Union and Africa's subregional organizations have engaged in peace processes in a number of serious situations on the continent. Just this month, for example, the African Union Peace and Security Council gave new impetus to the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. The African Union is also engaged in peacekeeping on the ground in Darfur and in peace negotiations in Abuja. In addition, the Economic Community of West African States and other subregional organizations are making efforts to prevent deadly conflicts in Africa. We pay tribute to them.

Those welcome efforts made by regional and subregional organizations in Africa and elsewhere should, as necessary, be supported or complemented by the United Nations, and by the Security Council in particular. To that end, interaction and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and

subregional organizations needs to be strengthened, and concrete ways should be developed to facilitate that. We support, for example, creating more opportunities for heads of regional and subregional organizations to brief the Security Council on their activities as they relate to the maintenance of peace and security. Likewise, the holding of meetings between representatives of regional organizations and members of the Security Council during the Council's field missions are useful ways to strengthen the needed interaction and cooperation.

More specifically, we note and welcome the growing role of regional organizations in peacekeeping operations, particularly in Africa, where they are most numerous. We believe that promoting further cooperation and creating partnerships between regional organizations and the United Nations in the area of peacekeeping is a desirable and feasible goal that should be positively pursued. To that end, several issues will need to be considered.

First, the capacity to rapidly deploy peacekeeping personnel to meet emergency requirements has always been a challenge. To better cope with that challenge, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been advocating for some time the idea of a strategic reserve of peacekeepers that can be relied upon for rapid deployment once a peacekeeping mission is established. That interesting proposal is still under discussion, with many questions yet to be resolved. The outcome document by world leaders also talked about the idea of rapidly deployable capacities.

In developing such a rapid-deployment capacity, regional organizations can play a useful role, and in fact some organizations — the European Union, for example — have developed such a capacity. Other regional organizations can follow — if necessary, with the assistance of the donor community — for the provision of training, equipment and other capacity-building assistance to the troop-contributing members of regional organizations, such as the standby force of the African Union.

Secondly and more generally, in the area of peace operations, more effective cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations that are engaged in peace operations is desirable. While the role of regional organizations in peace operations has been growing, their capacities for sustainable operations, particularly in developing regions of the world, are often limited. The United Nations can play a useful supporting or facilitating role in order to strengthen the sustainability of peace operations conducted by regional organizations, particularly when the operations in question are authorized by the Security Council.

To that end, various forms of support can be considered, ranging from United Nations assistance in military planning, such as that now being provided to the African Union mission in the Sudan, to support in areas where regional organizations and their member States face difficulties, including in transport, logistics and engineering.

Before closing, let me state that we believe that there is an important role in the proposed peacebuilding commission for regional organizations, and we strongly support the participation of regional organizations, as appropriate, in the activities of the peacebuilding commission.

Today's discussion is timely and provides an important opportunity to take stock of the current state of affairs and consider the future course of action in meeting the challenges of enhancing cooperation and coordination between regional organizations and the United Nations, particularly the Security Council. We trust that today's debate will take us one step further in that direction.

My delegation appreciates the effort of the Romanian delegation in preparing a draft resolution on the subject, which we strongly support.

The President: I thank the representative of Japan for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak also on behalf of the European Union and those countries that have aligned themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Foreign Minister's participation this morning and thank you, Sir, for convening this debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, a subject in which the European Union takes an intense interest. For that reason, the United Nations and the European Union signed a joint declaration on cooperation in crisis management in September 2003. We also see this debate as part of the implementation process of the world summit outcome. I should like to thank all those representatives of

regional organizations and entities who have joined us today.

Over the past few years, we have seen cooperation in peace and security between regional organizations and the United Nations expand, strengthen and develop in unprecedented ways. In many senses, that reflects the changing nature of conflict. Most conflicts of the last 15 years have been internal conflicts — civil wars that may have erupted owing to failures of governance, abuse of human rights, religious or ethnic persecution, and economic exclusion. Those internal conflicts have invariably spilled over, causing regional problems.

For countries torn apart by civil war, peace is hard won and recovery a long and complex process. And for the international community, support for a peace agreement following civil war is not just about observing violations of a ceasefire. It is now a multidimensional task. It extends beyond observation to robust peacekeeping, where necessary, but also encompasses the full range of civilian and civilian police tasks, from the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance, to support for long-term development plans; from the demobilization of ex-combatants to reintegration programmes for those returning to their communities; from meeting immediate need for police on the ground to long-term institutional reform of the police force and the monitoring and promotion of human rights. Both the United Nations and regional organizations have been involved in all those tasks in conflict situations, in many cases in partnership with each other. They have had to adapt their capabilities and modes of cooperation to meet those new needs.

Let me give just a few examples of how the United Nations and regional organizations have cooperated in recent times. In Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, it was the Economic Community of West African States that provided the first troops on the ground and therefore the initial capability for stabilization in advance of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In Darfur, as my Tanzanian colleague has pointed out, the African Union's peacekeeping force, the African Union Mission in Sudan, is carrying the burden on the ground and functions with the financial support of the European Union through the African Peace Facility. In Bosnia, there have been a number of linked interventions by the United Nations and its partners. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has now been succeeded by the European Union's Police Mission in Bosnia, and the European Union has replaced the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the main stabilization role, with support from NATO. Another example is Kosovo, where NATO troops have provided the main stabilization force, the Kosovo Force, which has operated under a United Nations mandate and in tandem with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Furthermore, UNMIK itself provides an example of United Nations cooperation with others, through the European Union's leadership of UNMIK's pillar IV and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's leadership of pillar II.

From the development perspective, there are several instances of useful cooperation. One such example is the strategic partnerships and agreements concluded between the European Commission and several United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

The European Union believes that the case for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations has been emphasized by those examples and many more, as well as by the interventions we heard this morning. Cooperation matters because regional organizations may have a more profound understanding of the situation in those countries; they may have leverage where the United Nations or other international partners do not; and, like good neighbours, regional organizations care more about what is happening in their own backyard and may be prepared to do something about it more quickly than others.

No one country or organization — not even the United Nations — can be expected to have all the capabilities to assist a country in conflict. Partnership is essential if we are to get the tasks of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding done. In doing so, we must, however, keep in mind the overall responsibility for international peace and security vested in this Security Council.

Let me turn to some of the opportunities and challenges of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

First, the European Union believes that more can be done to improve cooperation in conflict prevention and to help regional organizations prevent conflict in

their own regions. The United Nations and regional organizations should, as a matter of course, share early warning information and, where possible, take forward joint work to prevent the outbreak of conflict. For that reason, the European Union and the United Nations Secretariat conduct regular desk-to-desk dialogue, and that needs to be strengthened.

Secondly, in his report "In larger freedom", Secretary-General Annan urged us to establish

> "an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities that will enable the United Nations to work with relevant regional organizations in predictable and reliable partnerships" (*A/59/2005, para. 112*).

We need to build an understanding of the comparative capabilities of different organizations and the know-how to work together in a range of different circumstances and at short notice. That is not to say that there should be a strict division of labour. Rather, in order to be effective, the international community needs to know which organization can do what, and in what time frame. The summit outcome built on "In larger freedom" by encouraging the efforts of the European Union and other regional entities to develop capacities for rapid deployment, standby and bridging arrangements. We should take forward work on these areas now, including issues of interoperability and of how to effect a successful transition from an operation led by the United Nations to one led by a regional entity, and vice versa.

Thirdly, the relationship between regional organizations and the Peacebuilding Commission will be crucial. The place of such organizations in the Commission's country-specific work is assured in the summit outcome. Regional organizations will have a key role to play in providing information from the field and in helping to formulate peacebuilding strategies during discussions within the Commission. This will also be the means to build greater coherence between actions of the United Nations and those of regional organizations on peacebuilding issues.

Fourthly, building the capacity of regional organizations needs to be given serious long-term support. In particular, the European Union welcomes the reference in the summit outcome document to the development and implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union. Direct contact and cooperation among regional organizations should be encouraged. The United Nations also has role to play in this, given its wide experience, its network of expertise and its potential to play a coordinating role.

Fifthly, developments relating to regional organizations should become a regular part of the Secretary-General's reporting to the Security Council, and, as appropriate, the Council should meet regularly with the heads of regional and subregional organizations. In this way the Council will be better informed about the situation on the ground and about the options available for a given country. In this respect, the European Union welcomes the provisions of the draft resolution that has been agreed for this meeting.

Finally, let me say a word about cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in combating terrorism. Pursuing terrorists or proliferators requires a cross-border response. Regional organizations may often be ideally placed to help countries make that successful response. But at the same time, to be able to tackle these threats with really effective international cooperation, we as individual States need to have some common ground. We need a common vision and a common language. We need common standards in what we do, in the form of new legal or political norms. This is where the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations have a major role to play. The European Union would welcome the opportunity to further enhance counter-terrorism cooperation with the United Nations.

In conclusion, regional organizations now play a major role in assisting the Security Council, and the United Nations as a whole, in the maintenance of international peace and security. This is a fact that is being borne out today in conflict and post-conflict situations all around the world. The European Union looks forward to strengthened cooperation with the United Nations and regional organizations in all capacities.

Like other members of the Council, the United Kingdom welcomes and will support the proposed draft resolution on this item.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Hamidon Ali, Chairman of the New York Committee of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Hamidon: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Malaysia.

ASEAN joins others in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month.

ASEAN is pleased to note that cooperation with the United Nations has been pursued in many areas of common interest and concern. ASEAN fully supports multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. In that connection, and with a view to promoting peace and stability in the region, the eighth ASEAN summit, held at Bangkok in 1995, agreed that ASEAN should explore ways and means of enhancing cooperation with the United Nations.

With regard to pursuing that commitment, we recall the successful and fruitful meeting held between ASEAN leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the first ASEAN-United Nations summit, held on 12 February 2000 in Bangkok. The summit called for closer cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations in activities such as exchanging information and organizing conferences and seminars on issues relating to regional security, with financial support from the United Nations. Since that summit, ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN secretariat have worked closely with the relevant United Nations entities, in particular the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in organizing a series of annual regional seminars. The fourth United Nations-ASEAN Conference on Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in South-East Asia, with the theme of "The ASEAN Security Community and the United Nations", held in Jakarta on 24 and 25 February 2004, was a product of such cooperation. The fifth such United Nations-ASEAN conference is scheduled to be held in the first half of 2006.

To further strengthen the foundations of ASEAN-United Nations cooperation, the second ASEAN-United Nations summit was held on 13 September 2005 at the periphery of the recent High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly. In addition to ASEAN leaders, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the ASEAN Secretary-General, the World Health Organization, UNDP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS were invited to participate in the summit. ASEAN leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations took the opportunity to review and discuss broad areas of cooperation, including energy security, debt relief, health, disaster management, trade and investment and peace and security. The summit also discussed the High-level Plenary Meeting and United Nations reform.

On peace and security, ASEAN leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations recognized the linkages between development, security and human rights and committed themselves to enhance cooperative efforts to combat international terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. The United Nations also welcomed the possibility of ASEAN seeking observer status in the United Nations. The ASEAN-United Nations summit affirmed its support for multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core. The summit also expressed support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization and the multilateral system it represents to meet the challenges of the millennium. ASEAN looks forward to future summit meetings with the United Nations to maintain and promote closer cooperation between the two organizations.

Moreover, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/35 in 2002 generated additional impetus in our cooperation, as it encouraged both ASEAN and the United Nations to increase contacts and to further identify areas of cooperation, as appropriate. In that regard, ASEAN and the United Nations, as well as the specialized agencies, must explore ways and means of promoting further ASEAN-United Nations cooperation.

We wish to emphasize that for the past 38 years ASEAN has succeeded in fostering an atmosphere of peace and cooperation in South-East Asia, as ASEAN moves towards the establishment of the ASEAN Community, with the ASEAN Security Community as one of its three pillars, along with the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community. We are contributing to global peace, stability and comprehensive security. We will also give particular attention to the efforts of the United Nations in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and

preventive diplomacy as well as to the strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social and economic fields.

In coping with non-traditional threats and the challenges of globalization, ASEAN wishes to reiterate the urgent need to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in the areas of disaster management and dealing with emerging and resurgent infectious diseases such as avian influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome.

ASEAN, as a driving force for the ASEAN Regional Forum, has maintained contacts with various international and regional organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the aim of exchanging experiences and best practices in promoting peace and security. As an established multilateral regional security forum, the ASEAN Regional Forum embodies the principal regional process, initiated by ASEAN to engage its dialogue partners and other interested countries in the Asia-Pacific region to come together for confidence-building dialogue and cooperation activities.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers also hold regular consultations with their counterparts from other regional organizations on the margins of the annual General Assembly sessions in New York. Under this arrangement, ASEAN Foreign Ministers have met their counterparts from the Rio Group, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. These meetings serve a very useful purpose by promoting mutual understanding and cooperation on a myriad of issues of common interest.

We thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting, which has enabled ASEAN to interface with the Security Council and hence to expand further the scope of cooperation between our regional organization and the United Nations system.

Last but not least, we wish Romania's presidency a great success.

The President: I thank Ambassador Hamidon Ali for the kind words he addressed to the presidency. I now invite His Excellency Mr. Martin Erdmann, Assistant Secretary General of the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to take the floor.

Mr. Erdmann: Let me first of all join others in thanking the Romanian presidency for having convened this meeting, for taking this initiative and for giving us the opportunity to present our views on today's very important subject.

I represent an institution, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is 56 years old, almost as old as the United Nations. During the first 40 years of its existence, NATO had a very specific role in the historic context of what we call the period of the cold war. Those times are long gone, and the once static and passive alliance of European and North American democracies has changed profoundly.

Today, NATO is no longer focused on deterrence. Instead, we have embarked on a journey to turn the alliance into a provider of stability in Europe and even beyond. This journey began in response to a brutal act of violence in the Balkans. Ten years ago, in 1995, the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and Herzegovina became the symbol of a tragedy that could have been avoided if the international community had acted more resolutely.

Srebrenica was a wake-up call. It was a turning point for Europe, and it was a defining point for NATO. Srebrenica has taught us that we have to face challenges earlier. It spurred NATO allies to engage themselves more resolutely in the search for a solution to the Bosnian conflict. The result was a major peacekeeping operation — first the Implementation Force (IFOR), later the Stabilization Force (SFOR) — the first even in NATO history.

In 1999, in the Kosovo air campaign, NATO had already learned how to act faster, but we were still not fast enough to prevent too many innocent civilian deaths. Finally in 2001, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, we were successful. We managed to prevent a civil war from breaking out.

That is, so to speak, the past. NATO has become an organization that defends the security of its members and provides stability far beyond its own borders. Although not a regional organization per se, but an international intergovernmental organization, the alliance has evolved over the years into a security manager in a broad sense, first in Europe and now beyond.

In 2003, under a United Nations mandate, NATO established the International Stabilization Assistance

Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan in order to assist the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in maintaining security within the Force's area of operations. ISAF provided a safe and secure environment conducive to free and fair elections. In 2004, under a United Nations mandate, NATO established a training mission in Iraq, helping the Iraqi Government to exercise its capability to address the security needs of the Iraqi people by itself. And only this year, on the basis again of a United Nations mandate, NATO has started to provide support to the African Union Mission in Darfur, complementing efforts of other international players. Only last week, NATO took quick action in response to the recent earthquake in Pakistan by opening an air bridge for providing humanitarian relief, in close cooperation with the United Nations and the European Union.

(*spoke in French*)

All of that shows that NATO has learned its lesson from Srebrenica 10 years ago. There is no realistic alternative to a policy of engagement. But there is another lesson that we have learned in order to meet the new security challenges: the international community must act together. The challenges of the twenty-first century do not respect borders. In order to meet them, we need the broadest possible international cooperation. No nation and no institution can do it alone.

We need this community of engagement based on the particular experience of each institution. In this context, the alliance has committed itself to substantially improving its capacity to face up to new challenges. A successful response requires not only political determination but also appropriate military capacity. Our partners — in the Caucasus, in Central Asia, the Mediterranean Dialogue countries, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the contact countries, such as Japan, Australia and New Zealand — have often contributed to our operations and thus constitute a considerable portion of our capacity. Besides promoting interoperability, the alliance assists its partners with defence sector reform and in addressing together the security and stability challenges we are all facing, such as terrorism and border security.

(*spoke in English*)

Cooperation with international organizations is equally important, and here we return to today's subject. Our experience on the ground in various missions over the past 10 years shows that we all have to work together and to play our respective strengths. In a world in which managing security has become so complex, it is essential that we develop a common understanding. That is the first step towards finding effective solutions. And that is why having regular and structured relationships between NATO and the European Union is so important. NATO is ready to further enhance this relationship, which is already solid in practice and which has matured in several theatres on a more formal basis. As for the Standing Committee, from our point of view it is an important contribution to strengthening the mechanics of cooperation, and we stand ready to engage ourselves in its work.

There is no doubt that interaction will increase. It is in everyone's interest to do so, as was highlighted in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Be it through a structured dialogue, the Peacebuilding Commission or the Standing Committee we will continue to address pertinent issues for sustainable peace and security.

Here, I would use a concrete example of the need for closer cooperation — Afghanistan. In three months' time we will all meet in London to coordinate the development of a post-Bonn process for that country. That will be a real challenge, but it is also an excellent opportunity to show that our organizations are sharing the responsibility for the daunting job ahead of us.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Romanian presidency of the Security Council once again for having taken the initiative to organize this important exchange of views.

The President: I thank the His Excellency Mr. Erdmann for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil): I would like to express our appreciation to His Excellency Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, and to the delegation of Romania under his able leadership, for convening this meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which affords the Security Council the opportunity to reassess this pertinent subject in the light of the recent World Summit. I also thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the various regional and subregional organizations in attendance for their invaluable contribution to this debate.

As stated in the President's concept paper, the "time is right for the relationship between the Council and regional organizations to become more focused and organized" (*S/2005/638, p. 3*). Slightly over a month ago, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome our heads of State and Government clearly reaffirmed the importance of regional and subregional organizations for the international community as a whole and for the work of the United Nations in the field of international peace and security in particular. Institutional cooperation with those organizations is certainly required in key areas related to the settlement of disputes, threats to and breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. In the outcome document their indispensable role was recognized in the fields of peacekeeping, peacebuilding, responsibility to protect and in efforts to meet the special needs of Africa.

The position taken in the outcome document stems from undeniable empirical realities: in Darfur, the African Union bears the brunt of the operations to oversee the ceasefire; in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States has gone extra miles to quell critical situations; in Nagorny-Karabakh, OSCE relentlessly pursues an end to the territorial dispute; in Kosovo and in Afghanistan, NATO provides support to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, within the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions; and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the European Union has taken over the task of consolidating peace.

In addition, I would like to focus on two instances that are particularly close to Brazilian hearts and minds. In Guinea-Bissau, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) has done remarkable work — even more so if we consider its restricted means — in helping to organize the recent elections, which were deemed free and fair by international observers. Now, CPLP is turning its efforts towards providing support for institution-building and restructuring. As is also the case with the International Organization of la Francophonie, organizations originally based on common cultural backgrounds have been consistently increasing their involvement, support and direct assistance to peacemaking and peacebuilding initiatives. The Council should expand cooperation with such institutions.

In Haiti, the Organization of American States (OAS) is closely cooperating with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti in organizing elections and has succeeded so far in registering more than 3 million voters for the coming ballot. That amounts to more registrations than in the last two elections in the country. Such commendable work is not restricted to the electoral field. In Haiti, electoral registration provides a large segment of the population with its only credible civil registration, another essential instrument of citizenship. In the spirit of promoting the kind of cooperation that this initiative by the Romanian presidency stimulates, my country is making a substantial contribution to the elections in Haiti, based on an agreement recently signed between Brazil and the United Nations Development Programme, and based on our cooperation with the OAS.

Brazil welcomes increased coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. In establishing such important connections, however, we must be careful not to overstretch the limited resources of some of those organizations and be mindful of their respective competences. Constitutive charters do not always allow for the kinds of cooperation the United Nations might be seeking. Moreover, we believe that whenever the situation of a country is brought to the attention of the Council, the view of countries in the affected region and members of regional organizations should be heard and taken into account.

I would like to emphasize the need for increased attention to an area where regional organizations can play a crucial role: conflict prevention. More than once, my delegation has stated in the Council that major efforts by regional organizations should be targeted at the root causes of conflicts, in particular those that may be region-specific. Eradicating the root causes of conflict usually demands time and strenuous efforts. Regional organizations are in a unique position to address those causes, be they of a political, economic, cultural or social character. Their proximity and inside knowledge of local conflict situations allows regional organizations to deal with the specific elements that may precipitate even more critical situations.

Certainly, the Security Council can strengthen the capabilities of regional organizations in conflict prevention, and in the field special representatives of the Secretary-General should be attentive at all times to

the views and capacities of relevant regional organizations. Nevertheless, the principles determining cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should be sufficiently broad and based on the central idea that for each afflicted area it is possible to devise the optimum level of an organization's contribution.

The delegation of Brazil believes that the Peacebuilding Commission established by the outcome document will greatly contribute to increased coordination among regional organizations and the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. We expect that the Commission will soon be operational and we are working determinedly with other delegations towards that end.

Regional organizations have the ability and flexibility to muster support for initiatives aimed at breaking vicious cycles of insecurity and violence that plague so many countries all over the world. In areas such as the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons they can and do make a difference. They are also key players when it comes to involving civil society, which quite often plays a major role in peacebuilding as they possess the essential understanding of domestic dynamics.

Brazil is acutely aware that no peace can be expected to last if the people concerned cannot live a dignified life. In that sense, the most relevant contribution we can make is fostering development and combating hunger and poverty, those infamous seedbeds of conflict.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that the United Nations bears the primary responsibility among international organizations to promote peace and security, foster development and guarantee respect for human rights. Those are the main pillars of our collective endeavours. Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations will make our own tasks easier and our efforts more efficient, thus strongly increasing the likelihood that the Charter responsibilities of the Security Council will be effectively met.

Finally, I would like to thank the Romanian delegation for the draft resolution proposed on this issue, which my delegation is prepared to support.

The President: I thank the representative of Brazil for the kind words he addressed to me and to my Minister.

Mr. Baja (Philippines): We are honoured by the presence of the Foreign Minister of Romania to preside over this important meeting. We congratulate the Romanian mission, led by your dynamic self, Mr. President, on its initiative in developing the theme of our debate. We are also grateful to the representatives of regional organizations, whose presentations enrich our insight into cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

At this stage of our discussion, the importance and usefulness of cooperation between the United Nations — in particular the Security Council — and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security has been sufficiently acknowledged. The United Nations and regional organizations are, and should be, mutually reinforcing partners in that endeavour. The challenge before us is to look for opportunities to enhance that partnership and areas in which to do so.

There are some operational guidelines we must bear in mind here. The first obvious consideration is that no two regional organizations can be so similar as to admit of a uniform standard for cooperation or partnership. Regional organizations embody regional norms. The simplest way to understand a regional organization — thereby making cooperation more effective — is to study its charter or, in the absence of such a document, the instruments establishing the regional grouping. Regional organizations have emerged from particular regional developments, as reflected in the preambles of regional charters or instruments.

The second obvious consideration to bear in mind is that in most cases, a regional organization can be no more than the sum total of the political orientation, the level of economic development and the cultural and religious diversity of its members. Those are important factors in the equations affecting the competence of regional organizations and the degree to which they interact and cooperate with the United Nations, and particularly with the Security Council, as it carries out its mandate of maintaining international peace and security.

The search for appropriate modalities for cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations should aim to promote speedy and effective responses to situations likely to threaten regional or even international peace and security. Such modalities should optimize the resources of concerned regional organizations and of the various components of the United Nations system on the basis of their comparative strengths. That will ensure the complementarity of efforts and will eliminate duplication. This concept should hold true regardless of whether the cooperation or partnership is in the area of conflict prevention, peacekeeping or post-conflict peacebuilding.

There are fertile areas that the United Nations and regional organizations could cultivate in the maintenance of international peace and security. In the area of conflict prevention, the United Nations could stimulate the use of regional mechanisms or arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes. Such stimulation could come in the form of confidence-building measures and technical assistance aimed at the capacity-building of such mechanisms. In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia provides for a High Council, which is available to members for the settlement of disputes. The United Nations could also enhance its support for and assistance to regional seminars — for example, the United Nations-ASEAN Conference on Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in South-East Asia. The next such conference is scheduled to be held in the first half of 2006.

It is also relevant to mention that, as borne out by ASEAN's experience, a parallel track undertaken by the academic sector of civil society or by regional think tanks has been useful. The ASEAN Regional Forum — the regional process initiated by ASEAN to engage its dialogue partners and other interested parties in the Asia-Pacific region in confidence-building and cooperation activities on political and security matters — should attract the attention of the United Nations with regard to its conflict prevention efforts.

In the areas of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, it is essential to establish a dedicated communication procedure for the exchange of relevant information. That would permit the identification of activities likely to disturb regional peace and would serve as a device for early warning and monitoring to prevent their escalation into hostilities. Such communication procedures or processes could also serve as a repertoire of best practices through which other regions could successfully address similar situations. That would also provide an opportunity to develop an integrated operational response aimed at a negotiated political settlement.

During the recent ASEAN-United Nations summit held on 13 September 2005, ASEAN leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations reviewed and discussed broad areas of cooperation, which included energy security, debt relief, health, disaster management and peace and security. In the area of peace and security, they committed themselves to enhancing cooperative efforts to combat international terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. It cannot be overemphasized that cooperation between the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, and regional organizations to combat a common enemy — terrorism — should be further enhanced.

The United Nations should also encourage dialogue and cooperation among regional organizations. ASEAN Foreign Ministers, for example, have consultations with their counterparts from other regional organizations — such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Rio Group — in the margins of the annual sessions of the General Assembly in New York.

Finally, Mr. President, we welcome and support the draft resolution formulated by your delegation, which would, among other things, request the Secretary-General to include in his reporting to the Security Council assessments of progress made in cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The President: I thank the representative of the Philippines for the very kind words he addressed to the presidency.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish to thank Romania for having once again taken the initiative to convene a debate on the subject we are considering today. Given the growing needs in the area of peacekeeping, regional organizations have an essential role to play in both taking over from and supporting United Nations activities.

I fully associate myself with the statement made earlier by Ambassador Jones Parry on behalf of the European Union. I wish only to make a few supplementary remarks.

Regional organizations have recently made significant progress in giving full effect to the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter. I believe it is accurate to say that today, such organizations are often able to make a major contribution to peacekeeping at every stage and in all its dimensions, from conflict prevention to the rebuilding of a country emerging from crisis. We can see that clearly in our daily work in the Council: they intervene, sometimes, proactively, sometimes by taking over, and sometimes by supplementing United Nations activities. We also note that the capacities of various organizations are not identical and that progress is still needed. But major efforts are being undertaken everywhere, and they must be recognized and continued.

As Ambassador Jones Parry underlined, the European Union is actively strengthening its ability to support the crisis management activities of the United Nations. We can see the evidence of that in the Balkans. The European Union's actions now take place in the framework of the 24 September 2003 joint declaration of the United Nations and the European Union on cooperation in crisis management. The EU is also involved in strengthening the capacities of African regional and subregional organizations through the Peace Facility, which finances operations conducted by regional actors on the continent.

In that regard, I pay tribute to the initiatives that African countries have taken. Our Council, which devotes more than 50 per cent of its time to the management or the prevention of crises in Africa, is well aware of them. The African Union has been able to make a vital contribution to the transition process in Burundi, among other actions, while the Economic Community of West African States has taken action in Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Côte d'Ivoire.

It has often been seen that subregional organizations work in good harmony and cooperation with regional organizations and the Security Council and that we all arrive together — or at least try to — to make our actions complementary. Quite often, the actions of regional organizations have ensured a presence on the ground on occasions when the United Nations was not yet prepared to deploy a peacekeeping force. That is, in fact, what happened in Burundi. The Organization of American States has taken action in Haiti, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is continuing its work on the Eurasian continent.

We now regularly study the relations between the Security Council and regional organizations. I think that at each stage, we have to consider the nature of the value added by cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations. With respect to the difficult area of crisis and conflict prevention, I think that we are all aware that an effective regional organization often — more often than the United Nations — has the means to play an early-warning role.

That is what countries of the region are doing. We increasingly see that they tend to work through regional organizations or get them involved directly. That is a good thing, because it facilitates information and communication. I think it is necessary to have good information and communication going back and forth between the United Nations and regional organizations. My delegation welcomes the fact that progress has been made in that regard, but I think that we can do even better, as Article 54 of the Charter invites us to do.

I would add that a concrete step that prevention effort would be for the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations to take into account the instruments created by regional structures for marking and tracing small arms.

Beyond crisis prevention and management, regional organizations have a role to play in the stages of the political and economic reconstruction of a country emerging from a major crisis. In our work to establish a Peacebuilding Commission, I think it is right to give regional organizations a place in the Commission's consideration of a given situation. I think that the contributions of regional organizations on a case-by-case basis will be one of the conditions for the success of the Peacebuilding Commission and the new, ambitious vision it embodies of joint action among all actors seeking the resolution of a conflict.

We are working for, and are increasingly seeing, complementarity among the actions of regional organizations as they contribute on the ground through their presence in peacekeeping activities. We see more and more that regional organizations constitute one of

the options for peacekeeping capacities that the international community should have at its disposal in coming years. Some operations will be classic United Nations peacekeeping operations, and others might be regional actions authorized by the Security Council. Some, as was the case in Burundi, might precede a United Nations operation. Some will allow for a substantial, long-term deployment, while others might be emergency operations. For its part, the European Union is actively developing tactical units to fulfil such emergency operations functions.

We look forward to the observations in the report of the Secretary-General on consultations related to the conclusion of agreements establishing a framework for cooperation between the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations and regional organizations, including the contribution of the regional organizations. I believe that it would be very useful for the draft resolution to be adopted to refer to that in the paragraph concerning the report of the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm France's support for all those efforts, which should enable the Council, to which the Charter assigns the primary responsibility for international peace and security, to better involve regional actors in its mission, but also to thus strengthen the effectiveness of the peace efforts that are the foundation of the Organization and that bring us together today.

I simply wish to add that this effort for cooperation and coordination should take place especially in the field. Earlier I described situations where the United Nations took action on the ground alongside regional organizations and where they are able to take action in the same country. That coordination is not easy or automatic. I believe it requires an effort on the part of both the United Nations and regional organizations in order for that developing coordination on the ground to go as well as possible.

The President: I now call on the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Mahmassani (*spoke in Arabic*): I am speaking on behalf of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, in this debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of global peace and security. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on presiding over the work of the Council for the month of October. We appreciate your effective and unique role and wish you every success. I would also like to thank the Foreign Minister and the delegation of the Philippines for their successful efforts last month.

This meeting is a follow-up to last month's summit of heads of State or Government, who expressed support for firmer relations between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the Assembly also reaffirmed the importance of the participation of regional organizations in the work of the Security Council and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and such organizations in all areas.

The Security Council, at the summit meeting held on 14 September, stressed the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the prevention of conflict and to establish effective partnerships between the Council and regional organizations in order to facilitate confronting conflicts and crises at an early stage. In a resolution, the Council also stressed its determination to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations in several areas through, inter alia, support for regional mediation initiatives, in close cooperation with regional organizations. The Council stressed the need to strengthen regional capacities for early warning and the creation of rapid reaction systems. Likewise, the Millennium Declaration also noted the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

Heads of State or Government also stressed that regional organizations can work in complementarity at the international and regional institutional levels for the achievement of international peace and security, given the regional organizations' knowledge of the region. This is an integral part of international peace and security.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Security Council on the one hand, and international organizations on the other, should be governed by the provisions of the Charter, and should include peacekeeping operations, general reform and development, all of which can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. Chapter VIII also deals with aspects of coordination

and cooperation that are enshrined in many agreements between the United Nations and such organizations. Thus, there are many relationships based on cooperation that go beyond matters relating strictly to the maintenance of peace to other, broader concepts.

Over and above political considerations, there are many economic, social and human issues facing the international community today, including poverty, diseases, underdevelopment and terrorism, that require us to fine-tune Chapter VIII so as to enable regional organizations to face up to the challenges of the twenty-first century with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Given the new international order, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of international peace and security is an absolute necessity, because such organizations can be effective and helpful partners with the United Nations when dealing with questions pertaining to various regions of conflict in the world. That is why the Security Council must maintain stable and organized relations between itself and regional organizations and why such cooperation would be more effective. Here, I would like to highlight the tasks carried out by regional organizations and the practical role that they play in the area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations through the Security Council.

Article 52 of the Charter sets out the traditional role of regional organizations in the management of local conflicts. The Security Council must reactivate the role of such organizations and must be seriously attentive to their opinions and initiatives in the area of conflict management and conflict resolution. This would contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in an effective way.

The League of Arab States has taken several initiatives, in accordance with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter, with regard to the relationship between the Security Council and regional organizations with a view to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Middle East. In this context, I would like to refer to the Arab peace initiative launched at the Beirut summit in 2002. We had hoped that the Security Council would give serious consideration to that initiative to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve peace in the region. Unfortunately, the Council has not made any sincere attempt to consider it to date, and we have therefore lost an opportunity to bring peace and security to the region. I would like to remind the Council that that initiative is still on the table.

The League of Arab States is currently working with the African Union and the United Nations with a view to bringing about peace in Darfur. The Secretary General of the League of Arab States is also in the process of preparing an initiative with regard to the Iraqi situation.

We must re-examine the relationship between the Security Council and regional organizations in order to consolidate it and to ensure that the Council is better informed of events in conflict areas, in addition to its mission in preventing such conflicts. The regional organizations must be invited to participate in activities, meetings and negotiations in the Security Council that relate to countries that are party to such organizations, with a view to strengthening their role in those conflict areas in which they are involved.

I would also like to underline the role that regional organizations play in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and in coordinating humanitarian assistance for those in need in areas of conflict, crises and natural disasters. We must also ensure that contacts are maintained between the President of the Security Council and the chairpersons of the regional organizations, particularly with regard to relevant items on the Council's agenda. We must also take the lead from the heads of such organizations with regard to drawing up strategies for implementing Security Council resolutions and any reforms that are under way. The strengthening of relations with regional organizations, for example, will enable such organizations to become active partners in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Maintaining international peace and security requires us to respect international relations and the principles of international law. Regional organizations must therefore be strengthened to enable them to make a contribution to conflict resolution and crises. That will enable the international community to establish an international democratic system of collective security.

The President: There are a number of speakers remaining on my list. In view of the lateness of the hour, and with the concurrence of the members of the Council, I intend to suspend the meeting now.

The meeting was suspended at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5282 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5282nd meeting

Monday, 17 October 2005, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Ungureanu	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Katti
	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	Benin	Mr. Djakpo
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Ms. Kardel
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Matsuura
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Mrs. Patterson

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Letter dated 10 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2005/638)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55653 (E)

The meeting was suspended at 1.20 p.m. and resumed at 3.15 p.m.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Greece, who will also speak on behalf of the Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process.

Mr. Vassilakis (Greece): Mr. President, thank you for taking the time to come to New York to preside over this important debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. I would also like to welcome the representatives of regional and subregional organizations.

Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Today, it is a particular honour for me to speak on behalf of the South-East European Cooperation Process, the chairmanship of which is currently held by Greece. It is a genuine mechanism of regional cooperation that springs from the countries of the region themselves — Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Greece, as well as Croatia as an observer.

This timely debate is taking place in a year that is crucial for the United Nations, just a few weeks after the High-level Plenary Meeting of world leaders in September 2005, where important decisions were taken to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations so as more effectively to meet the security challenges of our time.

The heads of State and Government recognized the importance of multilateralism in addressing those challenges. They also recognized the important contribution to peace and security by regional organizations, as provided for under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. At the same time, they expressed their resolve to strengthen and expand cooperation between our global and regional organizations and to ensure that regional organizations that have the capacity for preventing armed conflict and for peacebuilding consider the option of placing such capacity in the framework of the United Nations.

Allow me to remind Security Council members that the need for a closer and more structured relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations was also recognized by the sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations that was held on 25 and 26 July 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, with the participation of 20 organizations.

In his opening statement, the Secretary-General called for, among other things, a common vision of a global architecture of peace and security, with interlocking capacities, based on comparative advantages of the global and regional institutions. Participants at the meeting endorsed proposals and agreed on measures aiming at a more structured relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations.

In our view, the decision of the high-level meeting to convene on an annual basis to monitor developments in international security, to promote the goals of the United Nations and to have these meetings coincide with those held by the Security Council with regional organizations is a most important decision in terms of achieving better coordination and complementarity of agendas.

While stressing the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, I wish to emphasize the complementarity of regional and subregional organizations in facing new threats and challenges and in promoting peace and stability, as I said in my statement at the aforementioned high-level meeting, speaking on behalf of the Security Council during the Greek presidency last July.

Today, more than ever, regional organizations have a vital role to play in conflict prevention and management, as well as in post-conflict peacebuilding. Geographic proximity and close historical and cultural ties among their members give regional organizations comparative advantages to better understand the root causes of regional conflicts and to find peaceful solutions to these problems.

Recent peace-support operations of the United Nations have been carried out in close cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Successful and sustainable peacebuilding also requires the active involvement of regional and subregional organizations, in particular as

regards implementation of post-conflict reconstruction policies.

As a member of the European Union, Greece strongly supports cooperative and effective multilateralism and fully subscribes to the EU security strategy adopted in December 2003, which incorporates, among other things, the objectives of enhancing stability, promoting the rule of law, good governance and international justice and tackling global challenges and threats.

Regional cooperation is a key priority to an agenda for peace, stability and development. In South-Eastern Europe, it is also a key element for the fulfilment of our common strategic goal, which is integration into the larger European family — itself the most successful example of regional cooperation — in close synergy with the United Nations, as well as with other regional organizations, for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

Following a succession of painful conflicts and crises on a long and bumpy road, our region today stands at a turning point. We are moving away from the syndrome that the Balkans were doomed to endemic and endless crises, and we are moving closer to political and social stabilization and economic development. We have a common responsibility to rise to the challenge and turn our region into a beacon of peace, stability and cooperation, acting in solidarity for the fulfilment of the aspirations of our peoples.

In this context, the South-East European Cooperation Process is gradually showing itself to be the organized voice of the region, an efficient and results-oriented mechanism aspiring to effectively contribute to peace and stability and committed to building and sustaining mutually reinforcing and effective relationships throughout our region.

This meeting offers a good opportunity to identify methods of enhancing cooperation and interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations. We believe that a closer and more effective partnership between them and a greater coordination in both policy and action is needed if we are to establish genuine complementarity.

Likewise, regional organizations should further develop their organizational capacities in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. In this respect, we support the development of the 10-year capacity plan of the African Union.

In closing, we are convinced that the recommendations agreed by the high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations concerning the institutionalization of this relationship are crucial for forging an effective partnership able to face the new challenges and threats of our time.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation feels highly honoured by your presence, and we should like to thank you for the initiative of the delegation of Romania to hold this public meeting on the subject of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We should also like to express our pleasure at the presence of the representatives of regional and subregional organizations, as well as that of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The future creation of the Peacebuilding Commission, together with the commitment of world leaders regarding the necessity to strengthen the United Nations with a view towards making it more efficient and effective, mean that cooperation with regional organizations has become a priority subject on the agenda of the United Nations. Regional organizations have the relative advantage of proximity to the conflict zone, which allows for a timely detection of symptoms of conflict in the region and the possibility of acting quickly to offer effective solutions for the peaceful settlement of conflicts. A recent example of this has involved the African Union and the Economic Community of West Africa in regard to events in certain African regions.

The added value of the regional organization in this sense is that it belongs to a geographic, economic and social environment that, in a special way, brings it closer and makes it more sensitive to the local conflict. The tasks of prevention and warning may, in many cases, require this proximity as an essential condition, as does the important function of stabilization in the construction of a stable environment. Consultation mechanisms, both formal and informal, must be promoted because they allow the United Nations to take advantage of the perspectives they offer and vice versa.

When our universal Organization examines a specific conflict, before it takes action in the field, it should, under ideal circumstances, receive the opinion and advice of the relevant regional organization and give it due consideration. Institutional experience and operational capacity must be the bases for defining the areas in which regional organizations can cooperate with the United Nations. In this sense, the experience and cooperation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti seems an eloquent example. The Organization of American States (OAS) has provided its specific technical knowledge and has collaborated actively in the political area, specifically in voter registration, in a very satisfactory manner. In this way, the regional organization, the OAS in this case, has given fundamental support to the final goal of peace and stability in Haiti.

The Charter of the United Nations confers upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. This arrangement could now include the Peacebuilding Commission, which would act as a liaison body between the Security Council, other bodies of the United Nations and regional organizations and create new synergies in a post-conflict situation. By taking advantage of existing elements we avoid an unnecessary duplication of effort. Since there is a connection between security, peace and development, the specialized knowledge of regional organizations, whose original mandate used to focus on the stimulation of economic integration and commerce, may be valuable to guarantee success of the strategies for economic growth and stability in the long run.

We have referred to the important role of regional organizations in the early detection of symptoms of conflict, the offering of solutions for peaceful resolution of conflicts and the elaboration of strategies in peace consolidation in the post-conflict phase. However, we must not forget the importance of establishing official cooperation agreements between the secretariats of regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations, incorporating, if possible, armed conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacities within the forces, services and back-up equipment system of the United Nations.

Systematic cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations would increase the capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflicts, respond quickly in the event of a conflict and provide solutions for the construction of lasting peace. The draft resolution that will soon be adopted urges us to make progress in the right direction and Argentina fully agrees with these commitments.

Mrs. Patterson (United States of America): My delegation welcomes your presence here. Your decision to preside personally over the Council's debates highlights the importance that your country places on improving the coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations. My delegation shares your interest in exploring ways to enhance that coordination as part of our continuing joint efforts to identify efficient and effective methods to help ensure international peace and security.

We welcome in particular the opportunity that today's debate represents to review cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as well as ways to increase the impact of such cooperation in advancing Security Council objectives. The activities of regional and subregional organizations, when properly planned and capably implemented, can strengthen and reinforce a variety of critically important United Nations objectives, such as promoting democracy and human rights, strengthening international security cooperation, countering terrorism and transnational crime and supporting economic development.

Regional and subregional organizations bring unique and important connections, knowledge and experience to any effort to address a given regional issue. A cooperative, multilateral approach between the appropriate United Nations organ and the appropriate regional organization has the potential to create valuable synergies and to increase the probability of successful interventions.

Allow me to highlight a few of the relevant initiatives that the United States is undertaking in this regard. The Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) is global in scope, as its name implies, but has a particular regional emphasis on Africa. The Initiative is designed to increase the capacity of participating African countries to deploy highly trained personnel in international peace-support operations. Cooperation between GPOI and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations will enhance interoperability among peace-support units from different countries. Increased interoperability translates into greater shared abilities to address some of the issues raised in the

draft resolution that we will adopt at the conclusion of today's debate.

The African Contingency Operations, Training and Assistance programme (ACOTA) is a specialized African peacekeeping training component of GPOI and will train selected African military contingents to carry out peace-support and humanitarian relief operations. ACOTA works with African partner armed forces and with regional and subregional organizations to coordinate crisis-response training. It is our hope and belief that ACOTA-trained units will be among the most capable available anywhere for these challenging assignments.

Partnerships with ACOTA have been developed after extensive collaboration with African countries and other stakeholders. The programme enables African military contingents from different countries to execute multinational peacekeeping operations by providing them with interoperable peace-support operations skills, including the requisite training and equipment. The programme's comprehensive approach integrates humanitarian, non-governmental and international relief organization participation into its training in order to improve critical coordination when ACOTA-trained personnel are deployed in real-world operations. The programme's support to African regional security organizations will assist the development of strong planning and organizational units capable of responding to humanitarian and peacekeeping crises in the region. Moreover, greater regional stability, created by an enhanced African peace-support capacity, will be instrumental in promoting African democracy and economic growth.

In other regions, similar efforts to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations can yield similar benefits.

My delegation is encouraged by today's debate and will study carefully the report that the Council has invited the Secretary-General to prepare on the challenges presented and the opportunities offered, as we seek to maximize the effectiveness of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The United States will be an active participant in that ongoing and collective effort. Today's debate has been a useful way-station along that road.

Finally, my delegation concurs fully with the statement made by Assistant Secretary General Erdmann, that NATO is not a regional organization per se — the long-held and widely shared view among Member States.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Paulin Djakpo, Director of Cabinet of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Benin.

Mr. Djakpo (Benin) (*spoke in French*): The Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Benin very much appreciates the invitation addressed to him to participate in this meeting. As it was impossible for him to come to New York personally, he has asked me to represent him today in this public debate in the Security Council and to make the following statement on his behalf.

My country, Benin, is very grateful to the President for having organized this public meeting on a subject whose importance is undeniable in the context of the debate under way regarding the reform of the United Nations. As in other areas, it is not a question of reinventing the United Nations but of creating the conditions for the judicious application of the Charter in the spirit of the fundamental principles enshrined therein.

The Charter of the United Nations has established a system of collective security based on two pillars, namely, the primary responsibility vested in the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and cooperation with regional organizations working in that field on the basis of subsidiarity and the obligation to be accountable. The relevant provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter are unequivocal on that point and there is no need to cite them here.

The international environment has not always been favourable to the effective implementation of those Charter provisions. However, since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of ideological confrontation between East and West, we have seen the emergence of a new community of values and an increase in cooperation between the great Powers in the area of promoting international peace and security. That has enabled the Security Council to play a greater role, as conferred upon it by the Charter. At the same time, we have seen a renewed interest on the part of States towards regional integration aiming at the promotion of peace and stability.

Among other things, that has been manifested in Africa the praiseworthy initiatives of regional economic commissions — such as the Economic Community of West African States — to find solutions to domestic armed conflicts. Both the African Union and its Peace and Security Council were established for that very reason.

Those positive developments have created the conditions for more active cooperation with the Security Council. They have also served to promote the revitalization of the collective security system instituted by the Charter, which is in line with the humanistic ideal that presided over the establishment of the United Nations itself, namely, to save future generations from the scourge of war and to promote the dignity and worth of human beings.

In that connection, we would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, who very early on understood the importance of both those virtuous endeavours and favoured consultations between the United Nations and representatives of regional organizations. Important results were achieved at the sixth high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which was held in New York on 25 and 26 July 2005 and organized around the telling theme of "Partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations for a safer world".

In that regard, Benin in particular welcomes the decision to establish a standing committee charged with mobilizing political will, promoting the adoption of a long-term perspective and monitoring the decisions taken. This is an act of great importance that augurs well for the deepening of concrete institutional relations.

Similarly, we welcome the participation in today's debate of eminent representatives of major regional organizations. This is a key opportunity to define the parameters of partnership in the area of promoting international peace and security. That partnership requires the establishment of consultative mechanisms for more effective interaction between the Security Council, regional organizations and Member States, with a view to facilitating sound management of situations that could pose a threat to international peace and security. The Security Council could thereby meet its primary purpose, to prevent the breakdown of peace and, where necessary, act collectively with Member States.

However, regional organizations cannot fulfil their commitments in that partnership unless their early-warning and response capacities are strengthened to deal with situations posing a threat to international peace and security. The constraints that have surfaced as part of the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to bring stability to the African continent demonstrate concretely the scope of the challenges that must be overcome to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in the area of peacebuilding throughout the world. The international community as a whole stands to gain much, and must therefore act with clear-sightedness and determination.

It is in that spirit that my country fully supports the draft resolution we are to adopt at the end of our debate.

Benin would like to pay tribute to Romania not only for having undertaking this initiative, but especially for having strengthened relations between the United Nations and regional organizations and having made that a priority of its mandate in the Security Council. History will record and take the true measure of the substantial contribution that Romania has made to structure relations between the United Nations and regional organizations to further integrate the collective security system established by the Charter of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Benin for his kind words addressed to my country.

(*spoke in English*)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it, which is contained in document S/2005/649. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1631 (2005).

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

May I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the participants in this joint and fruitful exercise to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. I thank you all for your resilience, help, patience and good work.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5283

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5283rd meeting

Tuesday, 18 October 2005, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dumitru	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Smirnov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Howe-Jones
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55693 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/653, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1632 (2005).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5284

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5284th meeting

Tuesday, 18 October 2005, 3.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dumitru	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55783 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The question concerning Haiti

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Haiti, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort His Excellency Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, to a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2005/631, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I now invite the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti to make a statement.

Mr. Latortue (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): This is the second time this year that I have had the opportunity to meet with the members of the Security Council and to discuss the situation in Haiti with them.

I have read with interest the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as it relates to the political environment in Haiti, the preparations for elections, and every aspect of security and safety. With respect to those three points, I should like to mak some brief comments and to convey the gratitude the Government of Haiti for the support being provid by the United Nations system through MINUSTAH.

First, with respect to the political environment, reaffirm the commitment of the Transition Government to ensuring the transfer of power 7 February 2006, the constitutionally agreed date. Th President of the Republic, I and all the members of th Government consider our commitment to be guarantee of the Government's credibility. Alongsi MINUSTAH and the other international organizatio assisting us — including the Organization of America States, the International Organization of Francophonie and the many donors — we have soug to ensure that the elections and the transfer of pow will take place smoothly on 7 February. The Preside of the Republic will transfer power to the preside elect and, several days later, I hope, the new Preside will form his Government and appoint a new Prim Minister. I, in turn, will pass on my authority whosoever is approved by Parliament.

The political situation in Haiti has, I believ evolved in the right direction since I was last here. say the "right direction" because, even as we hav more than 40 political parties and more than 3 presidential candidates in Haiti today, I am pleased inform the Council that the political parties a working very well together. They are now talking each other. I wish here to thank the Government Norway, which has organized several meetings Norway to which every political party has been invite and where they have all learned to work together. The have signed a governability pact guaranteeing tha whichever party is elected and whosoever may becom President after the elections, they will work with th opposition and acknowledge its rights. I believe tha this is a first in the political history of our country. W are also pleased to inform you that we have done ou utmost to ensure that all political parties are include in the electoral process. Indeed, today all parties a represented, and there are fewer and fewer problem with the political parties in Haiti. In fact, just toda political parties met to set up an electoral safeguard commission.

Obviously, for our new President to be able t take power on 7 February, first we need to hol elections. We have met with some delay in the electora process, owing in particular to the fact that th

Provisional Electoral Council did not grasp the true nature of its functions, that the nine Counsellors were part of an electoral council, and as with any council, the members should not be concerned with the day-to-day management of the electoral process. The Council is there to set the major guidelines, to define objectives and strategies and to monitor. The execution of those functions, however, should be carried out by an executive structure.

That has now been done. Last Saturday, we installed a new Director General of the Provisional Electoral Council, who will oversee implementation of all the major decisions adopted by Council. That decision was taken in close cooperation with MINUSTAH. We are very pleased to see that the whole international community present in Haiti witnessed the investiture of the new Director General and gave him the necessary support so that today he can speed up the electoral process.

In terms of legislation, we have also taken a whole series of measures to reduce the time for litigation, to eliminate any constraints that could have slowed it down. As soon as I get back to Haiti next week — and certainly as soon as Mr. Valdés gets back, as we work closely together — we will definitely be in a position to submit a new electoral timetable to guarantee the handing over of power on 7 February.

In the area of security, I can say that since the Security Council's decree of new measures in June, with the strengthening of MINUSTAH's mandate and, above all, with the promises and recommendations for greater cooperation and coordination between MINUSTAH and the National Police, things are going much better. Currently in Haiti we are speaking less and less of security problems. If one or two pockets of insecurity remain, they have been reduced to a minimum, and I think that with the upcoming arrival of 700 police officers from Jordan those problems will be behind us.

We owe that success to the excellent cooperation between MINUSTAH and the National Police. That cooperation was made possible by the Government's decision to appoint a new Director General for the National Police, one with a better understanding of what such a partnership entails. Today that partnership guarantees that security is not such a serious problem in Haiti as it was when we first met.

Of course, there still remains the major problem of disarmament. We have disarmament, demobilization and reintegration teams in place and they are beginning to make headway. It should be remembered, unfortunately, that in the area of disarmament the solutions achieved by some countries cannot always be applied wholesale in another.

MINUSTAH and the National Police are working in close collaboration to disarm the gangs that existed in Haiti, and during the past year they have made noteworthy progress. However, one thing that the Government observed was that some gangs were working in complicity with agents of the National Police. Fortunately, the new Director General for the National Police was courageous enough to put his own house in order. Indeed, he told me just a few days ago that one source of insecurity was corrupt police officers recruited under the former regime. Because of the impunity they enjoyed, those officers were able to extort money from the population and kidnapped innocent civilians. Last Saturday the Director General arrested 15 police officers.

The house cleaning continues. Those gangs were able to function above all thanks to the complicity they enjoyed with the police. Purging the department is extremely important and delicate work that jeopardizes the very life of our new Director General. I take pleasure in thanking MINUSTAH. When MINUSTAH understood the situation, it sent us their own police officers to help ensure the security of our new police chief. I believe that we are now headed in the right direction.

Now, of course, we have to try still harder to maintain the security environment during the electoral process. We have appealed to the European Union to see if they can make police officers available to us just for that period. Tomorrow I will be in Paris, and I will meet with President Diouf, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie. He has also promised to assist us in finding a number of French-speaking police officers who could join in MINUSTAH's efforts as reinforcements during the electoral process. Canada has also just sent us a few additional police officers.

In other words, one should not be misled by the apparent calm reigning in Haiti today. There are still forces opposed to democracy and to the transfer of power through transparent and free elections. It is up to

us, together, to do everything in our power and to strengthen security during the electoral process.

On the topic of security, I should not fail to mention the problem of human rights and the human rights situation in Haiti. This is always a very ticklish subject; it depends on which side you approach it from. On one side there are gangs that can arrest, kill or torture people with complete impunity. On the other side is the National Police, not always very strong or very well armed, but who, helped by MINUSTAH, are responsible for suppressing such acts of violence. The line between defending human rights and the fight against impunity is sometimes rather blurry. I have seen attacks in the international press not just against the National Police, but also against MINUSTAH, accusing those institutions of violating the human rights of gang members.

I can assure members that if there is any semblance of human rights violations, those violations are not deliberate. MINUSTAH is trying to protect the Haitian population; MINUSTAH is trying to protect the innocent people who are being attacked. And the National Police is joining forces with MINUSTAH to ensure that security prevails in Haiti. There may be setbacks and blunders, but be assured that if we discover them and there is proof, the National Police, under the command of its new chief and with the support of the Minister of Justice, are prepared to pursue all those who deliberately give themselves the right to violate human rights. The arrest of those 15 police officers is additional proof of the Government's resolve to ensure respect for human rights.

As we are discussing human rights, there is, however, one aspect that I must dwell on for a moment: the whole issue of justice in Haiti. We live in a country where the judicial system has, for various reasons, been corrupt for decades. One can well imagine that in a little less than two years, the Transitional Government has not been able to right all the wrongs of the past. But we want the international community to give high priority to justice in its cooperation programme with Haiti. Technical assistance from the international community must help us reform our justice system, train judges and create working conditions for magistrates that will ensure their independence. The political will is there, but the resources are not always available, and attitudes must change. This is a long-term effort. I am pleased that a number of countries in the international community, such as France and Canada, have already indicated their intention to help us in this area.

Our judicial system was inherited from the Napoleonic Code, and I will be in Paris tomorrow to meet with French officials. In the context of recommencing cooperation with France, the area of justice will be a priority in the discussions I will have with the French Prime Minister on Thursday. We in the Government are certain — and we hope that the Government that succeeds us will continue in the same direction — that, without justice, we cannot have development, and without justice, we cannot have the rule of law, for which we are all working.

Another point related to justice brings me to the humanitarian situation and the issue of development in Haiti. The humanitarian situation remains precarious. Considerable efforts have been made by the Government, thanks to good political and economic governance. This year, we were once again able to submit the new budget — for the fiscal year 2005-2006 — by the 1 October deadline. That budget is balanced. There is no deficit and no recourse to the central bank. That was difficult to accomplish, especially in a period of crisis, but it was essential in order to restore the kind of credibility that Haiti had 20 or 25 years ago. The support that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are giving us today is the most eloquent proof that the Transitional Government's good economic and financial management is beginning to bear fruit. Of course, the Interim Cooperation Framework has made a certain quantity of resources available to us. Resources have not always been made available to us at the right time. But on the whole, the Interim Cooperation Framework has helped significantly to strengthen stability and create jobs in Haiti.

A number of infrastructure projects have been established. The funds have been slow in coming. In particular, since the expansion of the European Union, European funds are arriving with much greater difficulty. I venture to hope that in the meetings we will have with the European Union in Brussels next Thursday and Friday, we will be able to consider together how to improve the situation, because there are cases that sometimes really cause problems for us. For example, more than a year ago, we announced the funding of the road from Cap-Haitien to the Dominican border at Dajabon. Everyone talked about it; they told us we were going to begin at one time or another. A

year has passed, and we have still not begun to build even one kilometre of road. We all know that the international bureaucracy is slow, and efforts are being made to speed up in Haiti's case. But in Haiti we have a country in crisis, a country that was virtually threatened with civil war. If we could speed up the bureaucracy a little, that would be good.

There are organizations that have made considerable efforts. I know, for example, that the Inter-American Development Bank has tried very hard, under the presidency of Mr. Iglesias, to move faster to ensure the right of non-objection, even in Port-au-Prince. But there are still very lengthy procedures there that slow things down. That does not prevent projects from being approved, which pleases us. Even if we do not have the opportunity to begin work, at least the next Government, following the principle of State continuity, will have a basis upon which it can continue to work to improve Haitians' living conditions.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank the Security Council for having supported us, most recently in June by renewing MINUSTAH's mandate until 15 February 2006. But I must tell Council members that 15 February will be eight days after the arrival of the new Government, which will still need MINUSTAH's presence for a certain period of time, if not a long time. Since to govern is to plan, I should like to alert the Council now to the need to begin to consider, in preparing 2006 budgets, that Haiti will still need the continuation of the MINUSTAH programme for at least a certain period of time. I wanted to share that idea with the Council and to express, on behalf of the Government and the people of Haiti, the heartfelt gratitude of the Haitian nation for the efforts of members of the Security Council to contribute to the stabilization and development of Haiti.

The President: I thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti for his important statement. I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Security Council, our appreciation to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti for coming to address the Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. In accordance with the understanding reached earlier, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations following the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5285th meeting

Tuesday, 18 October 2005, 5.30 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Dumitru	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Ms. Baaziz
	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Haneda
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Russian Federation	Mr. Sitnikov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Scott

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2005/631)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

05-55789 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2005/631)

The President: The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which is contained in document S/2005/631 dated 6 October 2005.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Juan Gabriel Valdés.

"The Security Council stresses the primary importance of ensuring that Haiti benefits from transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections, in accordance with international democratic standards and open to all political candidates that have renounced violence, thereby enabling legitimate leadership at the national and local levels. The Council conveys its concern regarding the risk of delays in the electoral process, and underlines international expectations that the first round of national elections should take place in 2005, and all efforts should be undertaken so that the democratically elected authorities take office on 7 February 2006 in accordance with the Haitian Constitution. The Council notes, with appreciation, that, so far, more than three million people have been registered. The Council praises the Organization of American States (OAS) and other relevant international stakeholders for their contribution to that process. The Council welcomes the representation of a broad range of Haitian political opinion in the electoral process and underlines the importance of a collaborative approach by political leaders. National reconciliation and political dialogue should continue to be promoted as a means to ensure long-term stability and good governance.

"The Security Council notes with concern that important challenges to the preparations of the elections remain yet to be overcome. While welcoming the recent steps taken by the Transitional Government and the 'Conseil Electoral Provisoire' (CEP), the Council urges them to perform the ten urgent tasks required to ensure that elections will take place this year, which were endorsed by the Transitional Government on 17 September 2005 and reiterated by the 'Core Group' on 18 October 2005. The Council calls for effective and prompt decision-making in key areas by the relevant Haitian authorities, and urges the Haitian authorities to make full use of MINUSTAH's advice and assistance in the organization of elections. The Council calls upon them to work with MINUSTAH to develop a phased electoral plan as a matter of priority, with a view to finalizing a feasible electoral calendar. The Council also urges the Haitian authorities to publish swiftly the final list of candidates for the elections, and to agree in consultation with MINUSTAH upon a list of voting centres that ensures voter access and takes into account budgetary, security and logistical implications.

"The Security Council strongly supports the mission's endeavours to ensure a secure and stable environment in Haiti, which is crucial for the country's progress, and to enable the electoral process to take place. The Council recognizes MINUSTAH's contribution to the restoration and maintenance of the rule of law in the country, and underlines the need for strong and coordinated assistance to enable the reform and restructuring of Haiti's rule of law institutions. To this end, the Council urges the Transitional Government, working with MINUSTAH, to put into effect the initiatives called for in resolution 1608 (2005) concerning the Haitian National Police (HNP) reform and restructuring plan as well as the reform of the judicial system, in order to end impunity and ensure due process. The Council

welcomes the improvements in the security situation, due to the resolve of MINUSTAH to act in support of the Transitional Government. The Council expresses concern regarding reports of involvement of some officers of the HNP in serious crimes and human rights violations and stresses the need to investigate fully any allegations of serious crimes and human rights violations. The Council welcomes the deployment of MINUSTAH's additional military and police personnel, in accordance with resolution 1608 (2005), and expresses gratitude to troop- and police-contributing countries.

"The Security Council reiterates the need for the Transitional Government and MINUSTAH to begin immediately effective implementation of a DDR programme. The Council stresses the need to implement high visibility quick-impact projects that create jobs. The Council also recognizes the need of maintaining stability in the period immediately following the elections, including through continued international presence, and to ensure that key Haitian institutions can function adequately, especially those institutions addressing rule of law and development. The Council recognizes the importance of the upcoming Donor Conference to be held in Brussels on 20 and 21 October, and calls upon donors to continue to disburse the pledged funds. The Council recognizes further that this Conference constitutes an important opportunity to further elaborate on short-, medium- and long-term strategies, within a unified framework, to ensure coordination and continuity in a coherent and well prioritized response to Haitian problems. Haiti is at a critical juncture. While ultimately the responsibility for Haiti's future lies with its Government and people, the international community must continue to provide support."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2005/50.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5286

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2005

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5286th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 October 2005, at 3.30 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 19 October 2005, the Security Council, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, held its 5286th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Guéhenno and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had a constructive exchange of views."

05-56060 (E) 191005

United Nations S/PV.5287

Security Council

Sixtieth year

Provisional

5287th meeting

Thursday, 20 October 2005, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	Benin	Mr. Idohou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Philippines	Mr. Mercado
	Russian Federation	Mr. Denisov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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05-56090 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Gambari: Over a month has passed since the withdrawal of Israeli settlements and military infrastructure from the Gaza Strip. At the time, we anticipated that the post-disengagement period would hold both hopes and perils. Since then, we have witnessed both.

On the day the Council was last briefed on this item (see S/PV.5270), the level of violence in Gaza escalated when an explosion at a Hamas rally in Jabaliya killed 19 people. Shortly afterwards, Hamas fired rockets into Israel, which responded with air strikes on Gaza and large-scale arrests in the West Bank. Palestinian security forces also clashed with militants.

Those events demonstrate the all too familiar potential for deteriorating security to derail the political process. Scheduled meetings between Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas were twice postponed during the past month.

In short, disengagement has yet to revive the peace process. But we continue to believe that it offers a basis and an opportunity to do exactly that, through completion of the agenda laid out by the Quartet, and by renewed and broader dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian Governments. The international community stands ready to assist, but the responsibility for seizing this opportunity rests, more than ever before, with the parties.

Let me turn to steps taken since disengagement. The Quartet's Special Envoy, James Wolfensohn, returned to the region on 7 October to push forward the Quartet's agenda in relation to disengagement. Mr. Wolfensohn sought to conclude agreements on the six-plus-three issues relating to movement, security and reform, which have formed the basis of his work since June.

The first of the six joint issues is border crossings and trade corridors. Reopening the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza is of immediate social and political importance, because it would restore a measure of Palestinian access to the world outside Gaza. It should also pave the way for agreements on border crossings with Israel, a link between Gaza and the West Bank, and the reopening of Gaza's air and sea ports. Since 17 September, the Rafah crossing has been fully open for only five days, pending agreement between the parties on administration of the crossing. According to the Special Envoy, agreement on the crossing regime is close: the parties have reached consensus on the main technical elements of its administration, and on a third-party presence along the border with Egypt. The European Union has offered to consider such a role, although a formal invitation has not yet been issued. We are hopeful, however, that reports that the Rafah crossing will reopen by 15 November are accurate, and we urge the three parties to continue to cooperate on this crucial issue.

The flow of people and goods between Israel and Gaza and between Israel and the West Bank must also be improved. It is the judgement of the Special Envoy that the parties are close to agreement on a management system for those borders, but Israel has, since 5 September, declined to meet with the Palestinian Authority in order to take the negotiations forward. Nor are proposals for a corridor to link the West Bank and Gaza being discussed by the parties. The United States and the World Bank have launched an options review to compare the costs of a road link and those of a railway, but Israel has demanded that work on that study cease.

Meanwhile, the Quartet is implementing a major programme of assistance aimed at creating jobs and at boosting Palestinian recovery in the aftermath of disengagement. On 5 October, the European Commission announced a proposal to increase European Union assistance to Palestinians by approximately €250 million. That offer is, however, conditional on an improvement in the security and movement situation. Other donors have also provided additional assistance, and according to an early estimate, overall disbursements this year will reach $1.1 billion to $1.3 billion, a 25 to 35 per cent increase over the annual average of the past four years. At least 35 per cent of this international assistance to the Palestinians will be channelled through United Nations agencies.

Palestinian recovery will not be sustainable until restrictions on the movement of goods and people are lifted and until the Palestinian Authority is able to establish firm administrative control. We note with concern the Special Envoy's recent reports on a number of weaknesses in the Palestinian Authority's internal structures and on its growing fiscal crisis. We also share the Special Envoy's disappointment that none of the movement issues was resolved this month — especially given the progress that the parties have made on the technical aspects of the Gaza border regimes. We hope for substantive progress during the coming weeks.

I would now like to turn to bilateral talks between the parties and domestic political issues. We have, for some time, been entertaining the hope that disengagement would contribute to the promotion of greater confidence between the parties, leading to dialogue on a broader range of issues. The process undoubtedly increased cooperation between the parties at the working level. The leaders also seem closer to resuming bilateral negotiations. A meeting between the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Mahmoud Abbas was scheduled for 2 October; that was to have been their first such meeting since June. The meeting was, however, postponed twice and has now been rescheduled for November.

It is clear that the increase in violence played a role in derailing the plans for such bilateral talks between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and also made their domestic positions even more difficult. Prime Minister Sharon carried out disengagement in the face of vocal domestic pressure; that pressure revived following the 24 September rocket attacks on Sderot. On the Palestinian side, on 3 October the Palestinian Legislative Council called on the President to dissolve the Government and to form another within two weeks. That call was precipitated by heavy armed clashes in Gaza between Palestinian police and militants. Such pressures make it more difficult for both leaders to take further steps towards peace.

With regard to security and violence, I would like to report that the security situation deteriorated significantly during the last week of September and the first week of October. Both Israeli and Palestinian civilians were badly affected by the upsurge in violence during those weeks. Indeed, the events of this month highlight once again the need for greater restraint to be shown in order to protect civilians and to create conditions under which the political process can move forward.

On 23 September, a large explosion at a Hamas rally in the Jabaliya refugee camp killed 19 people and injured 130. According to the Palestinian Authority and most observers, Hamas's mishandling of explosives at the rally was responsible for the explosion. Hamas, however, blamed Israel and fired 30 rockets into the Israeli town of Sderot on the following day, wounding five Israelis.

Israel responded to that attack by sealing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and it launched air strikes against targets in Gaza during the next four days. Israeli F-16 fighter jets repeatedly flew low over the Gaza Strip. The consequent sonic booms caused widespread fear among the population, and medical officials in Gaza reported negative effects on children and pregnant women. In the West Bank, the Israeli military killed three suspected militants on 29 September and arrested hundreds of others. That series of arrests constituted Israel's largest since Operation Defensive Shield in 2002.

The Palestinian security services also responded to the upsurge in militant violence, clashing with militants in Gaza and confiscating explosives and Qassam rockets. The Palestinian Authority reported that Palestinian security services had prevented 17 terrorist attacks against Israel since disengagement. The attempt to control militants has tested Palestinian law-enforcement capabilities. On 2 October, a Palestinian police commander and two civilians were killed in clashes with Hamas militants, and more than

40 people, including many children, were injured. On the following day, Palestinian police broke into the compound of the Legislative Council, firing into the air in protest at their inability to deal with militant attacks.

The security situation improved somewhat during the second week of October, but on 16 October, militants from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade shot dead three Israelis as they travelled to settlements in the West Bank. Israel responded by imposing tight restrictions on Palestinian movement in the West Bank.

The United States Security Coordinator, General William Ward, and his team continue with their important work to push forward security sector reform. The Palestinian leadership has announced a decision to confiscate illegally held weapons and has nominated three officials who will bear overall responsibility for security sector reform. Such steps could contribute significantly to the control of internal violence and to progress towards the fulfilment of Palestinian road map commitments related to security. Further progress in this area is absolutely critical during the coming weeks and months.

Furthermore, regarding movement and closures, the movement of people and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip has been restricted more heavily than it was during the months preceding disengagement. The number of workers crossing into Israel via Erez dropped dramatically. In addition to closures at Rafah and Erez, the Karni goods transit terminal was closed for several days, causing a reduction in both exports from and imports into Gaza and leading to shortages of foodstuffs such as milk.

We cannot yet attribute that increase in movement restrictions entirely to the post-disengagement situation, because it conforms to a pattern of closures imposed by Israel during the Jewish holidays in previous years. In previous years, long periods of closure have also had a serious impact on incomes and the economy in Gaza. The effects of movement restrictions are particularly worrying in this very fragile post-disengagement period.

As reported in previous briefings, Israel has reduced the number of checkpoints and closure measures in the West Bank during the course of 2005. But closure measures were again increased after three Israelis were shot and killed on 16 October.

The concerns about settlement construction and the barrier that were recently reiterated by the Quartet do not appear to have been heeded. Israel continues to construct the barrier in the Jerusalem area. Settlements and the restrictions that surround them and the barrier continue to impede Palestinian movements within the West Bank. Movement restrictions created by the barrier, by the checkpoints, by the border closures and by poor internal security continue to impede the ability of United Nations agencies and programmes to provide assistance to Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Let me say a word about elections. I would like to mention that the Palestinians held a third round of municipal elections in the West Bank on 29 September. Elections in Gaza were postponed due to security concerns. Participation in the poll was high and Fatah won over 53 per cent of seats in municipal councils, compared to 26 per cent won by Hamas. Technical preparations are under way for forthcoming Palestinian legislative elections, which are scheduled for 25 January 2006.

There have been a number of important developments in Lebanon. As members are aware, there was yet another attempted assassination, this time targeting May Chidiac, a prominent Lebanese journalist and political talk show host. The incident took place on 25 September in the town of Jounieh, north of Beirut, and involved a bomb placed under her car. Fortunately, Ms. Chidiac survived the attempt on her life, although she was seriously injured. The Secretary-General reiterated the United Nations condemnation of such acts of terror, aimed at intimidation and destabilization, and expressed his sympathies to Ms. Chidiac and her family. The Secretary-General again emphasized the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of that and other recent terrorist actions in Lebanon.

I am pleased to report that the situation along the Blue Line in southern Lebanon has remained calm. However, I regret to note again the continued Israeli air violations of the Blue Line and Lebanese airspace. Since the last briefing of the Council, a total of 11 air violations, involving 19 aircraft, have been recorded.

That is all I am going to say about Lebanon. I am sure that some will be disappointed, because of course they would like to hear about the Mehlis report. That is

reserved for when Mr. Mehlis briefs the Council himself in both private and public meetings.

I wish to make a few observations. A month ago, Israel's disengagement from Gaza and the Palestinians' success in restraining violence during the disengagement period contributed to a sense of optimism in the Middle East. Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians seemed close to agreeing measures that would enable the population of Gaza to travel and trade more easily. Prime Minister Sharon and President Abbas were planning to meet for the first time since June. Other developments pointed to a thaw in the attitudes of some Arab and Islamic countries towards Israel. An upsurge in violence, however, has undermined those positive political developments and dulled the sense of optimism. The postponement of proposed meetings between President Abbas and Prime Minister Sharon was particularly disappointing, since a return to bilateral negotiations would have marked an important turning point in the efforts to end the conflict.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders are now planning to resume talks in November. In our view, such meetings should take place periodically, and we hope that the leaders will have the tenacity and the courage to continue with negotiations over the coming months, even if further security crises occur. The political track has to be resilient to the inevitable ups and downs of this unstable post-disengagement period.

The international community, meanwhile, will continue to play its part in consolidating the success of disengagement. Quartet envoy James Wolfensohn will continue his efforts to push the parties towards agreement on the key "six plus three" issues. The donors are also pulling their weight to build on the positive momentum created by disengagement.

The Quartet will continue, as it has for the past three years, to work to achieve the vision of a just, lasting and comprehensive regional peace based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002). We welcome today's meeting between President Bush and President Abbas in Washington, D.C. However, the international community can only assist in restarting the peace process; it cannot lead a return to negotiations unless both parties take bold steps to fulfil their respective commitments. The parties must work constructively over the coming month to clear up the outstanding access and movement issues relating to disengagement, acting in parallel to implement obligations set out in the road map.

One of Israel's primary obligations under the road map is to halt all settlement activity, including natural growth, and dismantle outposts erected since March 2001. The cessation of settlement activity is an important confidence-building measure; while Israel continues to construct settlements in the West Bank, it is hard for President Abbas to convince Palestinians that peaceful negotiations with Israel will lead to the creation of a viable Palestinian State. The same must be said of Israel's construction of the barrier on Palestinian land.

For its part, the Palestinian Authority must persist with comprehensive reform and with the strengthening of its security services with the aim of ending violence and terror, as stipulated in the road map. The events of the past month have highlighted how Palestinian internal security problems have the potential to derail the political process and the peace process. There is evidence that Palestinians strongly support President Abbas' efforts to rein in militant groups. The Palestinian leadership now needs to build on that support and demonstrate its ability to improve Palestinian law enforcement capabilities.

Finally, I would like to say that the withdrawal of Israeli settlers and military infrastructure has lifted a burden from the people of Gaza. It also has the potential to create new opportunities for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Further energetic coordination, cooperation and engagement by Israelis, by the Palestinians and by the international community are needed in order to translate successful disengagement into a negotiated and sustainable peace.

The President: I thank Mr. Gambari for his comprehensive briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.